

# LIFE AND DEATH:

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OR,

TRUE TO EACH OTHER.

AN ORIGINAL DRAMA IN FIVE ACTS.

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WRITTEN AND DRAMATIZED BY

WILLIAM BEDELL AND ALFRED L. THOMSON.  
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## CAST OF CHARACTERS.

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### BOB HALEY.

*First Act.*—Dressed as a detective. *Second Act.*—Black velvet coat and vest, dark drab trousers, high black hat, kid gloves and cane.

### GEORGE MELVIN.

Handsomely cut black suit, soft black hat.

### SAMUEL THORSBY.

*First Act.*—Handsomely cut fawn colored suit, light high hat. *Second Act.*—Common dark suit.—*Fifth Act.*—Dressed as a sailor.

### ROBERT NORTON.

*First Act.*—Broadly cut pepper and salt trousers, vest and coat, grey wig and spectacles. *Second Act.*—Fashionable black suit, white beaver and cane.

### GUARD.

Tightly cut grey trousers and vest, light brown swallow tail coat, with brass buttons. Large felt hat.

### LUTARIOUS BOGS.

Yankee coat, vest and trousers, large white hat, stand up collar and tie, very large boots with trousers tucked in.

### YACOB SNEIDENHEIMER.

Very stout. Blue coat and trousers, brown ribbed stockings, slippers with buckles on. Red vest and cap. Large pipe.

### BOSWICK.

Livery suit.

### THREE HIRED HANDS.

Regular farmers suit.

### NELL NORTON.

*First Act.*—Plain Dress. *Second Act.*—Scarlet silk, very rich trimmings. Fashionable hat and black lace shawl. *Third Act.*—Handsome black dress.

### IRENE THORSBY.

*Second Act.*—Lavender silk dress, rich trimmings. *Third Act.*—Plain dress.

### ESTHER THORSBY.

*Second Act.*—Corn colored silk, rich trimmings. *Third Act.*—Plain dress.

### CAROLINA BOGS.

Large figured dress and apron. Large straw bonnet, sbawl and spectacles.

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# Life and Death; or, True to Each Other,

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## ACT I.

### SINGING.

We are the reapers, come one and all,  
Now to the hay fields without a call,  
Away to the West, there is wealth to be won,  
The hay fields to clear is our work to be done.  
Away, away, away,  
Away to the fields, away.

CURTAIN RISES. *Scene opens representing woods, stationary bridge in rear. Benches or chairs outside of cabin, also opposite. Chips on left of stage, rakes and hay forks near cabin.*

*Enter ROBERT from cabin followed by three hired hands.*

ROBERT. Come boys, make yourselves useful; there's a good day's work before you, and that hay must be placed under shelter before the next storm reaches us, so I reckon you'll have to scamper somewhat.

[*Hands seizes forks and rakes. Crosses bridge. Music as first. ROBERT seats himself near cabin.*]

There is no use in my watching my faithful workers; they all strive to do what is right by me, and I by them. When the clock in the cabin rings out the hour of five, they are up and away. When the bell in the village sounds the hour of seven, they are at home partaking of their simple meal, which consists of potatoes, dry bread and fresh buttermilk. They are good boys, and I love them, not for their work, but for the many kind deeds they did me when I was not able to utter a syllable, and was lying in a state of agony and distress. My poor wife also lay not far from my side almost lifeless. She often raised her thin white hands and murmured softly, "Robert! Robert!" when no answer was given her. Then sounded in my ear the trodding of feet, and from behind the wall which separated us, emerged those men in my employ, who carried me to the side of my wife. As she saw me the tears rolled from her eyes, which were only answered by tears from mine. Then raising her hand again, she said, "Robert, when I am gone, and placed beneath the cypress shade, keep the flowers fresh around my sodded mound; think of me as the shadows of eve draw nigh, for it is then I die." She sank into a peaceful slumber. No more could I hear those sweet words, for she was dead. If I could only have uttered one word, I should have felt relieved of a heavy burden. Oh! day of recollection, I shall never forget you. Miserable as I am, there's one to comfort and cheer me, one to relieve my lonely sufferings when in trouble, and that is my dear and only daughter Nell. I would not part with her for the world; no, never. All the money in my possession shall be hers when she arrives at the age of twenty-one. Should I not live to see her attain that age, my nephew, Samuel Thorsby, shall be her guardian, and will rule my estate until the day when she will be entitled to it. Ah! here she comes.

*Enter NELL from the cabin with basket. Stops suddenly.*

NELL. Oh, goodness, Pa, how you frightened me; why are you seated here so early and with no hat on your head? I am afraid you will take cold.

ROBERT. [*Feeling his head.*] O, bless my soul, I was thinking I had a hat on. You are a good girl, Nell, run into the cabin and get my beaver.

*NELL sets down basket, and exit in cabin.*

There are so many odd jobs to look after that I am without a hat half the time.

*Entered NELL from cabin with white hat.*

NELL. Pa, you are very forgetful, your hat was not in the proper place. Instead of laying it on the sofa, you placed it on the butter dish in the pantry; it is completely soiled, and I am very sorry. [*Hands hat, ROBERT takes it.*]

ROBERT. So am I; nevertheless it will soon be out of style.

*NELL takes basket and gathers chips.*

ROBERT. Nell! how would you like to have a servant; one that can do all the work? I think you have been servant long enough, and I mean now to make a lady of you.

NELL. That will be ever so nice, for it will give me quite a rest.

ROBERT. Yes, I was thinking of making you more aristocratic, like the other young ladies who rove around and live in such elegant houses.

NELL. I should like to dress a little neater, if you say so, but as to living in an elegant house, I cannot say it would please me; I care not to desert our old cabin, it is so romantic looking.

ROBERT. You must not expect to live here always. [*NELL seats herself beside him.*]

NELL. No, pa, it will not always be my home, yet my desire is to remain here as long as I live. You are the only one I have to love, the only one I have to cheer; all have passed away from us, leaving us alone to do our duty. [*Takes flowers from her breast.*] Here are the roses which mother gave you; I am saving them as they wither, for there was no one on earth like her.

ROBERT. [*Takes them.*] Each leaf reminds me of the promise I made her that I would keep the flowers blooming fresh around her sodded mound. She pressed my hand, and thanked me so gratefully that the tears from my eyes mingled with those from hers.

NELL. Have you kept your promise?

ROBERT. No, not as I ought to have done. There have been so many alterations made where she lay, I thought it best not to disturb the sod, but let the grass grow green, which looks more beautiful in nature.

NELL. Yes, the green grass and silvery leaves, without a solitary flower, shades her mound from the sun, and the rain which falls on her marble slab, falls also on the dry sod and refreshes it with a new color of delight. So let us not forget, that He above, who cares for us, will care for those who are gone before.

ROBERT. [*Rises from seat.*] Come, Nell, we must paddle our feet into the cabin, for it is high time our work was done. I'll carry your basket of chips. [*Goes and gets basket. NELL helps with basket.*]

NELL. And I shall help you. [*Reënt into cabin. Quick music.*]

*Enter SAMUEL THORSEY, followed by BOB HALEY, L. 3 E.*

BOB. I say its the best one sold; they told me it would kill any human being if I only hit them in the right place.

SAM. [*Softly.*] I have no doubt at all; but you must not talk so loud, Bob, they will hear us. This is a very cosy spot; I should like to live here altogether. [*BOB looks around.*]

BOB. Yes it is fixed up magnificently, but I think it's about as cheap to sit down.

*Both sit down opposite cabin. BOB fooling with pistol.*

SAM. Now to arrange our plan of business. [*Looks at BOB.*] Keep that popper concealed Bob, it might go off.



BOB. All right, my covey, let us proceed; is the money in the cabin, or is it all in property?

SAM. [*Softly.*] I say not so loud; there is money enough in that shanty to keep a dozen like us.

BOB. All right, my covey, proceed.

SAM. This money is supposed to be kept in a large tin box, which is hid from view in a large trunk, and covered over this trunk is a box nailed to the floor, so it will be a risky piece of business. There will be a great noise made before we come to the money.

BOB. I suppose so; every thing seems to be monstrous large now. How came you to find out about this money?

SAM. This is my uncle's cabin, and I visit here quite often. This money was left him by his wife, who is now dead. When I was going [*points to the door*] in that door early one morning, I saw him place a box over the trunk and nail it securely to the floor. That gives me the idea the money is there, which must be your's and mine.

BOB. I am much obliged to you for the information.

SAM. There's a gal in that cabin, and I tell you she's mighty good looking; she's the old man's only daughter. Now, I shall knock at the door and invite her to the old homestead, escort her there, and then return and finish our work, while you remain where you cannot be seen.

SAM rises, advances to the door and knocks. BOB goes to the left, 2 E., and hides. ROBERT opens the door.

ROBERT. How are you, Sam? What brings you here so early in the day?

SAM. I came to invite Nell to a sociable which is going to take place at the old homestead. We should be pleased to have her among us, as a good time is expected. Can she go?

ROBERT. Certainly, certainly, she may go wherever her presence is needed. I'll step in and call her. [*ROBERT goes back in cabin.*]

BOB. [*From hiding place.*] All right! my covey.

ROBERT and NELL enters from cabin, NELL with hat on. NELL shakes hands with SAM.

NELL. Good morning, Sam, I am ready to go with you. [*Shakes hands with ROBERT and kisses him.*] Good by, pa, until I return.

ROBERT. Good by, Nell. [*NELL takes SAM's arm.*] Sam, take good care of my daughter.

SAM. I'll see that she arrives safe home. *Exit N. 3 E.*

ROBERT. I shall retire now for a sleep.

*Exit in cabin and closes door. BOB comes out from hiding place and advances to c.*

BOB. He has accomplished one feat, now to destroy the other. Can I see the father of that beautiful girl assassinated while I have the authority as a detective to arrest? Must I see his money taken from him? No. I shall plan a better scheme than this, and if he is smart enough to undo it, he is a better man than I take him for. [*Hesitates.*] A thought strikes me now; I will arouse the old man, for I heard him say he would retire for a sleep.

*Goes to cabin door and knocks. A cry is heard in cabin. BOB steps back.*

BOB. What's that?

ROBERT. [*Coming out of cabin excited.*] What does this mean? Why do you intrude on my premises? Oh! you have gotten me so confused; I was sleeping and in distress. You are a stranger to me, sir, nevertheless sit down while I tell you a horrible dream I had. [*Sent themselves.*] I was fast asleep, and before me stood a man holding a knife over my heart; his ivory teeth and ghastly looks are too horrible to relate. The blade of his knife glistened in the dark like silver, and he was about to pierce my heart when a knock at

the door aroused me, and I sprang from my cot with a cry, and rushed for the door. You must excuse me, sir, for my rashness, and I will listen to what you have to say.

BOB. Your dream, sir, I am afraid, will come true.

ROBERT. [*Startled.*] What? True? Never.

BOB. Yes, true unless I prevent it. Your name, please?

ROBERT. Robert Norton.

BOB. Well, Norton, you do not know what calls me here, so I will explain myself. I am a detective, and that is only to be known between us. I have learned from your nephew these facts: that he is going to assassinate you and take the money which you have in your possession. He has engaged me to do this awful work, not knowing that I am a detective. He has performed his feat well, so far, and it now remains for me to save you from this horrid fate.

ROBERT. If you save my life I shall reward you well.

BOB. I will do it. [*Reaches out his hand to ROBERT.*] I promise before heaven that not a hair of your head shall be injured. [*Rises from seat.*] Go now in your cabin, and leave this work with me.

ROBERT. [*Rising from seat.*] My friend, how shall I ever thank you for this.

BOB. Never mind the thanks; go now in your cabin where you cannot be seen.

*Exit ROBERT in cabin. BOB walks to c, looking downward.*

BOB. Now to save Robert Norton from the hands of his nephew. His daughter's pretty face has made a great impression upon my heart. If I but save him from this horrible death, I may stand a chance of winning her for my wife. [*Exit L. 2 E., returns quickly with a dummy dressed similar to NORTON, and places it inside of cabin.*] Now you can try your hand, but beware of my seeing you. Ah! he comes.

*Music. Enter SAM, laughing. R. 3 E. BOB advances to c.*

SAM. Ha, ha, ha, haven't I done well, Bob? Now I can fire, hit or miss, so let's have that popper. [*Holds out hand.*]

BOB. No, sir; that popper belongs to me, and it's my duty to keep it for fear of an accident.

SAM. You are not a coward?

BOB. No; if I speak the truth, I must say I am a little two-faced.

SAM. If you are so stubborn about it, then keep it; I wouldn't show it if I was you. [*Draws knife.*] There are more ways of killing a cat than one, so now, Bob, follow me. [*Exit in cabin.*]

BOB. All right, my covey. [*Keeps position.*]

*Slow music. SAM opens door and shows knife with blood on it.*

SAM. The deed is done, now for the money.

*Goes back in cabin. Hammering heard. Bell strikes seven.*

BOB. Go it, my boy, you'll whistle another tune before you've done.

SAM comes from cabin with trunk. Advances to c. Opens and takes out tin box. Looks at BOB.

SAM. Am I to pay you for looking on? Coward, every inch of you! What means this coolness?

BOB. Yes, coward enough to arrest you, [*sudden burst of music. Points pistol at SAM*] Samuel Thornsby, not for murder, but for burglary.

ROBERT appears at cabin door. His three hired hands at centre of bridge in an attitude of amazement.

END OF ACT I.

A lapse of two years is supposed to occur between the first and second acts.

## ACT II.

SCENE I. *A cell to right. Dark stage.*

*SAM discovered behind bars with chain and ball attached to ankle.*

SAM. What a dreadful night I have spent in this lonesome cell, chained securely down in the depth of misery. How dare I face my uncle and friends who thought me honest and trusted me in the presence of all manly features? A cold shudder runs o'er me as I think of the dreadful deed I have done. Had it not been for Bob Haley, a greater crime would have been committed. He has saved my uncle from a horrible death, and me from the hangman's noose. Not yet can I realize that my honored name is trodden down in shame and disgrace, and I, no more a man, nothing but a poor and miserable wretch, must here spend the balance of my life. What? all my years here? No, never! [*Tries to get off chain.*] If I can but escape from behind these bars, Bon Haley shall suffer for the wrong he has done me. Oh! coward! why do you live? Your plan was a good one, but let me once set eyes on you, and I'll have revenge if I die in the attempt.

*Enter ROBERT and NELL L. D.*

ROBERT. This way, Nell, follow me. [*Points at cell.*] Now you have the opportunity of gazing on his natural form, as it is better than I can describe. Look at his ghastly eyes and downward smiles. If there be a sight on earth truly distressing, it is that of a man chained in the presence of his condemner.

SAM. [*Starts.*] Do you mean to say you are Robert Norton?

ROBERT. That's my name, do you not recognize me? Two years have passed away since we met, and that meeting was one of robbery and attempt to kill. Think of it Samuel, for a moment! Picture yourself in the home of your childhood, where you were surrounded by loving friends. Then picture yourself in this miserable cell, penned in by bars of iron, where no sun can enlighten your mind to press your way onward through a manly life of honor. [*Points to NELL.*] Here stands the girl of my pride, my only child, who once loved you and thought you a man of respectability. Wherever her presence was needed, she was always there, after your receiving the farewell blessing of a kind father, and the parting embraces of a fond mother. New scenes opened and new impressions were made with your desire of assassinating me and depriving Nell of her treasure which was left by her dear mother in my possession. What a picture of despair. My hands shall never unbar the door which holds you. I now thank you for the attention you have given me.

*Both exit L. D.*

SAM. I know I deserve this punishment, yet there is no hope of freeing myself from it. I must linger along through the weary years to come, and die at last without one word of forgiveness. Oh! shame forever. [*Geo. enters L. D. with saw and hammer under coat.*] Is there no living soul to set me free?

Geo. Yes, that soul is your friend, George Melvin.

SAM. Is it you, George? come to release me? If you can do it, you shall not go unrewarded. There's no time to lose, for the guard awaits your leaving the prison.

*Geo. takes out saw and hammer. Slow music.*

Geo. I heard you were cast in this dark cell, and my mind has not been at ease since the news reached me. I concluded to free you if I could, so I made all necessary preparation and started for this place, which I have reached at last. [*Saw rasps on gate, enters, and closes gate quickly.*] It is now life or death. I hear the guard advancing towards us. [*Tries to undo chain.*] The chain is linked so tightly together, I cannot undo it, and the guard awaits my departure from the prison.

SAM. Is there no way to cast them off? Work with a will, for he is near at hand.

Geo. [*Takes hammer.*] Here is the last and only instrument that can do it. [*Hammers chain.*]

SAM. [*Excitedly.*] Hammer away quickly! Down with it! Strike another! [*Chain falls.*] Well done George; never say you can't!

Geo. Now follow me, till I take you back safe to your friends at home.

*SAM takes ball. Geo. exit L. D. As SAM is about to go, GUARD enters, and is knocked down by ball. SAM escapes.*

SCENE II. *A street.*

*Enter GUARD R. 1 E. with head bound up, pressing it with his hands.*

GUARD. Everything has gone to smash. The prisoner's escaped and sent my precious roof flying incommodiously to my wish. Should I be exempted from all blame, and recover from my wound, the result will be [*feels light in the head*] Oh! Oh! what a rumbling noise darts through these sacred pinfeathers; dangers in my eye, horses trample in my ear, bells chime like the echoes of war, sending their way onward o'er the lofty heights of Rocky Mountains. Now all is hushed, I am off the track again, so help me ginger. [*Looks off.*] Bile me down into apple sauce, and chew me up into squinches! if there don't come a pretty respectable looking couple. Live in some style, I reckon by appearances. Oh! Lord this poor head; what in the name of salt mackerel is going to become of me? They are progressing rapidly, and I dare not stir from my position. Oh, Lord! this head.

*Enter R. 1 E. looking downward and talking. Runs against GUARD and knocks him down.*

GUARD. [*Moons.*] Be careful, use me gently.

ROBERT. [*In surprise talks rashly.*] Bless my soul what are you doing there? Where did you come from and who are you?

GUARD. [*Gets up.*] Allow me to explain. [*Aside.*] Oh, Lord! this poor head.

NELL. I am sorry you met with this accident, sir. Are you much hurt?

ROBERT. [*Speaking quickly.*] He should keep his senses about him and stand on one side when a lady and gentleman are passing. It would serve you right if we knocked the whole top of your head in.

GUARD. [*Aside.*] Oh, Lord! please spare the remainder, it all belongs to me, and I tell you its mighty strong with camphor and molasses. Physician says it must be kept cool and bathed with alcohol every twenty-four hours in the year. Should that fail to cure, set fire to the feathers. [*Aside.*] Oh, Lord! I am off the track again. You see I am dangerously ill, so you'll excuse me for my actions. I've received a wound on my head which I am afraid will prove fatal. If I tell you how it happened, you may be interested.

ROBERT. We are delaying ourselves by listening to this man's nonsense. Come, Nell, it strikes me forcibly something is wrong. *NELL takes Robert's arm and is about to start off.*

GUARD. You had better listen to what I am about to say; it will do you no harm, and it may do you some good. [*Aside.*] Oh, Lord! this poor head.

NELL. Perhaps he is in want, pa; it will only take a few moments to hear his story; suppose we listen. [*Stops and listens.*]



ROBERT. [*Feeling vexed.*] I know it is not worth hearing.

GUARD. Hold on, my friend, don't get rily so easy, if you please. Have you ever visited a prison where cells for holding burglars, etc., are erected?

ROBERT. [*Harshly.*] Yes, I have.

GUARD. I thought so. [*Putting hand to head.*] Oh, Lord! this head. I was guarding a prison where a man was chained in irons and placed in the darkest cell, for what cause I cannot tell you. Two years passed away, and on one early morn I heard the chains which bound him, fall beneath his feet. I rushed to his cell, and as I entered the door I was struck a blow which felled me senseless to the floor. The prisoner escaped my hands, and I laid a long while in a state of combustibility. Oh, Lord! I am off the track again.

ROBERT. His name, tell me quickly.

GUARD. Easy, you snarling grasshopper; don't get so confused. [*Putting hand to head again.*] This head of mine swims like a steamboat. If you must know his name, it is Samuel Thorsby. [*ROBERT and NELL astonished.*]

ROBERT. What! my nephew escaped from prison? You devil, you. [*Kicks him.*] Why are you not after him.

GUARD. Be easy, you rily varmint. Oh, Lord! this head. [*Turns and leaves them.*] I go my way to an apothecary shop. *Exit* L. 1 E.

ROBERT. How under the sun could he have escaped them bars. [*Getting excited.*] Arouse the villagers! search his pathway! Come, there, no time to lose!

NELL. [*Placing hand on his shoulder.*] Oh! do not cast him again in that miserable cell, I implore you! Let him go, for my sake, for his poor sister's. I know he will change to be a better man.

ROBERT. A man who is condemned to prison serves out his number of years sentenced. How can I free him from bondage? Could I do it, I would willingly for your sake; but as the law lays not in my power, he will be captured and placed in the position he held.

NELL. [*Pleading.*] Is there no way to let him see once more his home? It deeply grieves me to think of the days his poor sisters have spent in solitude and loneliness.

ROBERT. [*Sympathizing.*] Dry away your tears, Nell. Come, cheer up, do not make yourself ill over his folly. How can you, after what he has done?

NELL. [*Wiping her eyes.*] You know I once did love him, for when I was a child he often placed me on his knee and sang to me so sweetly that I thought no voice on earth more musical. Only say you forgive him and hope he will try to be a better man.

ROBERT. [*Hesitatingly.*] I say it with all my heart. I forgive him.

NELL. You are ever so good, pa. I feel now like a new girl. If I but had wings, I would fly away over the mountains and dale, and land safely before our cabin door.

*Walks to C. and stands as if talking. Enter R. 1 E., GEO. and SAM talking as they enter.*

GEO. It has caused a wonderful sensation in the neighborhood, and villagers are running to and fro trying to gain admittance to the prison. [*Stops suddenly.*]

SAM. [*Aside.*] Do my eyes deceive me? [*Speaks low to GEO. pointing towards NELL and ROBERT.*] There she is, with her father on their way, I'll bet, to the homestead. It will not do for them to see us.

GEO. No, we must go back until they are out of sight. [*Exeunt R. 1 E.*]

*Enters BOB L. 1 E. Stops quickly.*

BOB. [*Aside.*] What! strangers? I'll speak to them. [*Taps ROBERT on shoulder. ROBERT and NELL look in surprise.*] It's quite a pleasant day, sir; nice looking young lady you've got there.

NELL. [*Laughing.*] I'm sure you don't mean—

BOB. [*Interrupting.*] Yes, I mean just what I say. Is not your name Nell Norton?

ROBERT. [*Speaks quickly.*] Norton is our names, I reckon you are about right. You seem to be so inquisitive, now supposing you tell us your name.

BOB. Bob Haley, the man who saved you from death.

ROBERT. Is it possible? give me your hand. [*Shakes hands.*]

BOB. Once more we meet face to face for the first time in two years. I never expected to see you or you daughter again, but yet it has been my long desire. Your nephew has escaped the bars, and I am in search of him; whether he will ever be captured I cannot say.

NELL. [*Pleading.*] Please let him go, for my sake; don't enrage him again.

BOB. Well, as for letting him go, I can't say it will be doing my duty if I do not try to capture him. All he has to do is to keep out of my sight.

NELL. Then you will not try to find him?

BOB. [*Hesitating.*] Well, I promise I will not, unless something terrible happens, but he will have to propel his feet faster than I do mine. May I inquire what brings you so far from home?

NELL. It is the old story; old to us who have tried to banish all fears and begin anew. The course of our way which we are going will lead us to the old homestead, where Samuel's poor sisters have spent so many days in loneliness. There's to be an old lady there from Shrewsbury which we desire to see; it probably will be for the last time, as she is to start for some foreign land in a few days, so they have agreed to open their house for all who wish to see her. Many, I suppose, will go from the village, as invitations have been sent them; she dresses so odd, and she can bear no one who smokes or chews tobacco.

BOB. If there will be no objections I should like to see the old lady.

ROBERT. [*Speaks quickly.*] No objections whatever; there will be room enough for all and more beside.

BOB. Enough said. [*Offers NELL arm.*] I will go. [*She takes it. Exeunt* L. 1 E.

ROBERT. [*Follows rejoicing.*] I am pleased to see you, perfectly delighted. [*Exit* L. 1 E.

*Enter R. 1 E. SAM and GEO.*

SAM. So long as a father's eye is upon them, so long will they obey his commands. I hate them! I hate them! if I must say it, with all my might. You may think it strange language, but the longer you live, the deeper you will be convinced of the truth.

GEO. What is there interesting in this? If you hate the girl that's not to say I do. I love the girl, but I hate that fellow who dragged you to prison worse than fire.

GEO. Sam, not so loud, there may be some one listening.

GEO. Let them listen, they will hear nothing but the truth. Haven't I got the right to speak? Don't I belong to myself? Whose business is it what I say? This is a law of nature which belongs to every man.

SAM. Could you realize, at the beginning of our journey, that we were to pass through an enemy's country, where foes lurk behind every bush, and conceal themselves under the corners of every jutting rock?

GEO. No, I could not. Is it so?

SAM. Yes, some one is trying to ensnare us. We should be on our guard always. Should we fall into the hands of these villagers, there won't be much left of us by the time they get through, so we had better make tracks for the homestead.

GEO. You cannot go through the village as you are. Do you suppose they will not know you? They are mighty smart chaps down at the lower end, and they will have your scalp in no time. You must disguise yourself in some way, but as for me, I need none.

SAM. They know I am a perfect devil. But we cannot stop here any longer.

GEO. All right, if you are satisfied to go undisguised, I am with you.

SAM. It is only a short distance, and there will be no one there but my sisters, whom I have not seen for two long years. I am nothing but a villain, and I suppose I always shall be. You are the best friend I have.

GEO. Yes; and I will stand by you as long as I live. Only win me the girl, and I will do any thing you ask me.

SAM. That's a go. [*Shakes hands.*] Keep your promise and I'll keep mine. [*Starts to go.*] Now away, for it is getting late. [*Exit L. 1 E.*]

*Enters R. 1 E., LUTARIOUS BOGS with umbrella and carpet bag over shoulder.*

LUT. Lons a massy! this express is got to rest. [*Puts down carpet bag and sits on it.*] I didn't thought it was so confounded heavy. Confidence is firm belief, but thar's none in thar. My aunt Carolina is a mighty smart woman for expressing goods, but no thanks. I'm afraid she got overtaken with the storm, as the bog was very swampy. However, I'll be darned if she can miss her way. I gave her my resolver should thar be any danger, and if any body gets in her way they'll get boisterously harm.

*Enters GUARD L. 1 E. excited.*

GUARD. Seventy-five gone to rack. [*Stops suddenly and looks at LUT.*] Hallo, pedlar, when did you come down?

LUT. [*Stares.*] Now look ahere; don't you talk so sassy. [*Rises and advances towards him.*]

GUARD. So help me Isaac! When did you come down?

LUT. Now look ahere; don't you tell any one I'm har. I came down to-morrow, and I'm going to the old homestead. My name is Bogs, Lutarious Bogs.

GUARD. Chaw me up inter gooseberries if I don't think you are related to Carolina Bogs, in Shrewsberry.

LUT. Wall I reckon little that way, I think I am her aunt.

GUARD. Yet most likely you are doubting.

LUT. How long does it take to walk from har to the homestead?

GUARD. Well, it's considering the way you go. If you walk a straight road you'll be thar before you know it; but if you climb all the fences, there will be an hour's difference.

LUT. Wal, I suppose so.

GUARD. Yes, most likely. Will you have your trunk expressed?

LUT. Wal, it's not necessary, but if you like to wait har till Carolina arrives, you can carry it for her.

GUARD. So help me, Bogsy, I'll do it.

LUT. All right, then; she'll be 'long directly. You'll know har when you see har. Just keep them eyes o' yourn looking up that street till she comes, and I'll go to prepare the way. [*Exit L. 1 E.*]

GUARD. [*Walks to carpet bag and opens it. Looks over contents.*] Bog's Express. Tooth combs, spirits turpentine, balsam peneroil, but nary tobacco. That's sufficient to knock me inter yesterday. If I don't make business brisk. [*Takes out chalk, marks on bag, Bogs, all the way from Shrewsberry.*] First job I've had since I left the prison. The lawyer said my head would improve if I kept dangerously to work, so I'll try my hand first as a carpet bagger. It's a pretty nice time their going to have at the old homestead to night, so I've just struck a heap of luck.

*Enter R. 1 E., CAROLINA loaded down with parcels and boxes, gets to C. and drops them.*

CAR. I'm about tuckered out.

GUARD. Father protect us! another express?

CAR. Did I har you say you were tired?

GUARD. [*Looks at CAROLINA.*] No, Carolina, I've not commenced yet.

CAR. [*Looking in surprise.*] Where's Lutarious?

GUARD. He has gone to prepare the way, and left me to express you and your goods.

CAR. Mercifui man.

GUARD. Yes, that's a fact, he's merciful. But I say, aint you ready to go your way? I'm anxious to see the old homestead.

CAR. Wal, I'm wanting you to start.

GUARD. What! [*Looking at boxes.*] With all them ere boxes?

CAR. If you like. I s'pose you war left to do this work.

GUARD. No, my pretty sun flower, I was left only to express the trunk.

CAR. Thar'll be no fighting, so load me up with them ere boxes. I'm going to give you some work to do when we get thar.

GUARD. [*Puts boxes on arm, talks while he does it.*] Just what I like, plenty of work and no spondulicks. Now, Bogsy, you are all right. [*Starts off with bags.*] So come along and we'll reach the homestead before we get there. [*Exit L. 1 E.*]

CAR. Fifty dollars for a husband. [*Exit L. 1 E.*]

SCENE III. *A small apartment in the old homestead.*

*Enter R. 2 E., IRENE and ESTHER.*

IRE. I believe there was quite as much to make people happy in those days as there is now.

EST. You do not call this happiness? It is nothing but misery.

IRE. Do not talk so, Esther. What cause have you to think over these foolish ideas? I'm sure everything looks pleasant around us, and is kept neat and comfortable. Even our steward likes his new home, and thinks it the best one for social enjoyment.

EST. It seems hard for me to imagine myself standing before the natural face of Robert Nortop who sent our poor brother to prison for the remainder of his days.

IRE. Why do you dislike him? It was Samuel's own work, and he has no one to blame but himself. Robert has always been kind to us, so there is no cause in turning ourselves away from him. Even Nell is sorry for his actions, and pleads for his removal from the prison.

EST. It will do no good, I know, for I am sure they will not let him come again to his home. If he could but come to-night and join with us in our usual banquet, how happy I should be.

IRE. So would I. But you know there is no one to tell him of our joyful hours which we are about to spend. No one to release him from that dark, dark cell.

*Enter Boswick L. 2 E.*

Bos. Esther, two gentlemen are down in the drawing room.

EST. Show them up. [*Bos, bows and Exit L. 2 E.*]

IRE. Who can it be, I wonder?

EST. I suppose it is some of the villagers come to see the old lady from Shrewsberry, although she has not yet arrived. I am afraid they are rather early.

IRE. I'll tell them that the old lady has not arrived, and they had better take a seat in the drawing room. [*Exit L. 2 E.*]

EST. Oh! dear, I am so very tired after spending such a long day at work preparing for the coming hour. [*Enter L. 2 E. IRENE.*]

IRE. The two gentlemen wishes to see us on business of importance. They come.

*Enter L. 2 E. GEO and SAM.*

GEO. It's many a happy day you've had in this house, I have no doubt. Still there are happier days to come.

EST. [*To GEORGE.*] May I enquire who you are, sir?

GEO. You do not know? Can you not remember the days we

spent together in childhood, you, Samuel and myself? How the noon-day's sun lit up the fragrant mountains, and sent its brilliant light glittering through the leafy trees?

EST. [*Hesitates.*] Oh, yes! I do remember you. An old friend, indeed. But who is this gentleman?

GEO. Have you not seen him before? Can he be a stranger to you?

IRE. [*Stepping towards SAM.*] I—I think I know him.

SAM. [*Throwing up his hands.*] Who am I, then?

EST. and IRE. [*Embracing him.*] Our brother!

SAM. Yes, once a brother, but now how can you own me after my past career? I have dragged you both down from an honored life to shame and disgrace. Think of it. I am nothing but a villain and always expect to be until I fall down the deep valley of despair.

IRE. But what cleared you from prison?

GEO. [*Interrupting them.*] It was I who tore away the bars that held, and broke the chains which bound him. It was I who risked my life for his, and brought him safe to your side.

IRE. How shall we ever pay you for this trouble?

GEO. I ask no pay; I shall soon be rewarded.

IRE. We are going to have a pleasant time to-night, and was wishing you could be here and join with us in our usual banquet. Our wish is answered, and we meet you once more in our old home-stand.

SAM. I never expected to see it again. No, never! Many days I've waited for some kind hand to unloose my chains and guide me safe back to the home I was born in. [*Pointing to GEO.*] He was my guide and deliverer, to him I owe all I have.

*Enter L. 2 E., BOS.*

BOS. The visitors are beginning to arrive.

EST. Show them up to the parlor. [*Bos. bows and exits L. 2. E.*]

EST. Come, gentlemen, we must receive the visitors. [*Reënt L. 2. E.*]

*Enter L. 2 E., CAROLINA and GUARD, CAR. with boxes and GUARD with carpet bag.*

CAR. Thar! No Lutarious har? Whar in the land can he be?

GUARD. Hit me with a house if I don't think he's gone to smash.

CAR. [*Offended.*] Be quiet, Sir! How dare you interrupt me when I'm speakin'?

GUARD. [*Dignified.*] Be quiet, Mam! How dare you speak to me when I'm interrupted. Do you have no respect for myself? I have improved dangerously.

CAR. It's only a way I have in speaking. You must excuse me.

GUARD. I thought so. If you live to be as old as I am, you will find yourself in some foreign land.

*Enter BOS. L. 2 E.*

BOS. You are not allowed in this part of the house, so you will follow me. [*Exit n. 2 E.*]

GUARD. [*Follows BOSWICK.*] Oh, Lord! Carolina, we have lost our way. Your aunt, I suppose, has been waiting for more than an hour. *Reënt n. 2 E.*

SCENE III. *A handsome parlor, arch v. c., pictures, chairs tables, etc.*

LUTARIOUS *discovered on left reading paper.* NELL, ROBERT, and BOB *on right.*

LUT. Wal this is pleasure. It seems like home when I read such beautiful stories. I'll read it again, I'm darned if I don't. [*Reads aloud.*] "Another flood of tears fell from har bright eyes, and dropped like dew drops on the folds of har crimson dress."

ROBERT. I think it likely she will be here presently, Mr. Haley. It seems quite tiresome to be doomed to such a long visit. I find I am more lonely than I used to be. Perhaps it's because I'm getting old.

*Enter R. 2. E., ESTHER and SAM, IRENE and GEO.*

EST. Has the room changed since you last saw it?

SAM. Yes, considerably. It looks much neater than it used to. [*Advancing to c. looks at BOB HALEY and says.*] What, Bob Haley. [*Walks back to GEORGE.* ESTHER and IRENE *goes and shakes hands with ROBERT, NELL and BOB.*

SAM. [*Trembling.*] He's here.

GEO. Who's here?

SAM. That coward, Bob Haley. I have a terrible sharp temper when I get mad. So keep your eyes on him while I prepare for revenge. I must have it! I shall have it! [*Exit R. 2 E.*]

GEO. I only hope he kills that cowardly being. There is no show for me to win that girl to-night, for he stays by her side like a faithful watch dog. [*Walks over to LUTARIOUS.*] Do you belong to this house, Sir?

LUT. [*Looking up, from book.*] Wal, I reckon I do while I'm har. When I aint har I belong somewhar else.

GEO. Fool!

LUT. Yes, I suppose so, very much like one.

GEO. Is the old lady coming to-night?

LUT. Wal, yes, I reckon so; it's about time for har now. The aunt of har is here.

GEO. *Looking around.* Where is she?

LUT. [*Pointing to himself.*] Har she is.

GEO. [*Laughing.*] Do you mean to say you are her aunt? You look more like her grandfather.

LUT. Yes, I'm her nephew.

GEO. More likely. [*Looks at watch.*] The hours are passing rapidly, Sir.

LUT. Wal, yes, I reckon they are progressing rapidly. Take it easy, take it easy, har 'll be here soon. Have you read the last edition, latest account of Samuel's escape from prison?

GEO. No, I haven't.

LUT. Wal you ought to read it, its very interesting.

*Enter BOSWICK U. C. E.*

BOS. The old lady has arrived, and is now coming up stairs. [*Bos. and exits.*]

*GUARD and CAROLINA makes a noise outside.*

GUARD. Come along I say, Bogsy, why don't you hurry? Oh, Lord! this poor head chimes like an earthquake.

*Enter U. C. E. GUARD and CAROLINA walk to L. CAROLINA falls, GUARD catches her.*

GUARD. [*Excited.*] Oh, Lord! She's fainted, send for an apothecary shop.

*All gather around her except LUTARIOUS, who sits still and reads.*

ESTHER *hands GUARD a fan; he takes it and fans CAROLINA.*

CAROLINA. Oh, help!

GUARD. Yes, I'm helping you.

BOB. Would it not be better to give her a glass of water?

GUARD. No, she don't drink.

CAR. [*Comes to herself.*] Where's Lutarious?

GUARD. [*Looks around.*] He's carefully reading his last edition.

CAROLINA *rushes from his arms over to LUTARIOUS who looks in surprise.*

LUT. Wal, of all the earth! You come like a vision in a dream. I'm obliged to see you.

CAR. I never expected to see you again, for I had such con-



founded luck; the bogs were all full of bull frogs, and I had to shoot a couple of dozen of them before I could get through the swamps.

LUT. Just what I thought. I never ought to have left you alone.

GUARD. [*Holding up his hands.*] I'll do it, by ginger! *Exit L. 2 E.*

LUTARIOUS *Introduces CAROLINA. Enter SAMUEL U. C. E., stops quickly, looks at BON.*

SAM. You, my man, will suffer for the wrong you have done me. [*Advances to C., GEORGE steps up to him.*]

GEO. Is everything ready for the work?

SAM. Yes, all are prepared, but remember, stand by me if you are my friend.

GEO. Oh, certainly! I will never see them get the best of you.

CAROLINA and LUTARIOUS *walk to R., opposite 2 E. GEORGE and SAM. to L. opposite 4 E. NELL, BOB, and ROBERT opposite to SAM. and GEO. ESTHER and IRENE opposite LUTARIOUS. They talk together. Enter GUARD R. 2 E., with cream. Walks around.*

GUARD. Lemon ice cream, cent a glass! [*Stops in front of SAMUEL and staves.*] Say, aint you the identical fellow who escaped from the picture gallery a short time ago? Blast my eyes if I don't think that you are the same shape of an instrument that cut away the bars, and smothered my precious head over with that ball. [*Starts off.*] Lemon ice cream, cent a glass! [*Exit L. 2 E.*]

SAM. Now, to have my revenge upon that cowardly villain. [*Advances towards BON and addresses him.*] Bob Haley!

BON. [*Looks up quickly.*] That's my name, Sir.

SAM. You are the man who arrested and dragged me to prison, and I am the man who will send you into eternity. *Draws pistol, BOB kicks it from his hand. NELL instantly picks it up. GEORGE rushes and strikes BOB on head with club, he staggers and falls in NELL's arms. SAMUEL draws knife and rushes to BOB. NELL and ROBERT both point pistols and speak together. Stand back! LUTARIOUS and CAROLINA embracing each other, trembling with fear.*

### ACT III.

SCENE I. *A plain room in the old homestead. Practicable door on R. and L. 4 entrance.*

NELL *discovered sleeping on a sofa on R. Door or curtain in U. C. opens, and reveals BOB HALEY kneeling, and SAMUEL THORSEY with knife over him; closes as she wakes.*

NELL. It's nothing but a dream; all night I thought of their villainous work, and imagined myself falling from some high cliff down into the deep dark waters beneath. I know something terrible is going to happen, yet how can I believe it? I must banish all these fears, and stand out bold and brave before all scenes that surround me.

*Enter ROBERT L. 4 E.*

ROBERT. Good morning, Nell, how is Mr. Haley this morning?

NELL. He's much better pa, well enough to walk about the garden.

ROBERT [*Sits by her side.*] I'm sorry he received such a blow from the hands of that villain. I hope he will be well enough to start with us on our way home.

NELL. Yes, pa, I hope so too; I think he will be in presently. [*Looking earnestly in his face.*] If you only knew how much I love Mr. Haley, you would say, marry him Nell, and live happy together in the old cabin.

ROBERT. I do say it, with all my heart; I have no objection to

your becoming the wife of Mr. Haley, but I do not want you to become the wife of that cowardly villain, George Melvin.

NELL. No, never! I would sooner die.

ROBERT. He says he will have you if he has to follow you through a sea of fire; so keep your eyes wide open, and don't let him come within a mile of you. I have been listening half the night to the plot which they are going to perform.

NELL. Are they still in the house?

ROBERT. No, they have gone, I cannot tell you where, just now; there is one thing to be done, and that quickly. Marry Mr. Haley if you can, and he will free you from their infernal work. [*Enter BOB. L. 4 E.*]

BON. Nell, these eyes and ears have been on the watch for some half hour out by the garden wall. To-morrow, I'm afraid, will be to you a very unhappy day.

NELL. [*Rises and puts her hand in his.*] What makes you think so?

BOB. I do not think I know, for I heard from the lips of George Melvin that he would win you if it cost him his life.

ROBERT. Then they have not left the house?

BON. No, I fear we shall have to clear ourselves from them the best way we can, for I have nothing but this [*takes out knife*] knife to defend ourselves with. They are well armed, and ready at any moment to kill, should they overtake us. Let not your courage fail you, Nell, but stand firm and true before their cowardly faces. I will not see you harmed as long as one hand is free to grasp their ugly throats. When death stares you in the face, cheer up and laugh at their foolish work, for I'll be there every time I'm needed.

ROBERT. Mr. Haley, you have always been kind to us and endured many hardships for our sake. If I could only see you and Nell out of this danger, I would give all I possess. My life is worth but little, and should they be the means of killing one of us, let me be the one to die to save you and Nell from a murderer's hand. I cannot live much longer, I'm too old.

NELL. [*Puts hand on Robert's shoulder.*] What makes you talk so, pa? do you think I could stand by and see you murdered like a dog? No, if they were both standing before us now, I would struggle with them until the last breath left me.

BOB. That's right, Nell; stand out brave before the enemy.

NELL. Nothing gives me more courage than your sweet face. When first I saw you, and when I heard of your saving my father from being murdered, I fancied you a man whom I would always love. And I say it now, as we stand before his face, I love you still.

BOB. [*Takes her hand.*] How can you love a man like me? I'm nothing but a poor, mean fellow, working hard for what little I earn. You are worth many dollars, and can live happy all your life.

NELL. I do not live happy. I long for some one to guide me safely through the cares of life. I never shall be happy until you say you will— [*Hesitates.*]

BOB. [*Speaking quickly.*] What, marry? This is the first opportunity I have had to think of getting married. I will not promise.

NELL. [*Looking in his face, pleadingly.*] Yes, do! for my father's sake. Who will love me when he is gone never to return?

BOB. There is one who loves you already, and says he is going to have you.

NELL. It is all false! He may think that I will abide by his rules, but the time will come when he will be sorry for his actions. Only say you will marry me, then—

BON. Go on, what then?

NELL. We'll five happy together.

BOB. I said I would not promise, but there seems to be a fire burning within this breast. How can I resist saying I love you? [*Embraces Nell.*]

NELL. And will marry?

BON. Yes, I'll go it, any how.

NELL. I will do anything for you; only let us be true to each other.

BON. Then we'll live a life of honor, and die a noble death.

ROBERT. [*Rejoicing.*] That's right; go it, go it. [*Sets themselves together.*]

NELL. Pa, you are not strong enough to bear with all of Samuel's threatenings and cursings; that man is a coward to your face, but the word murder will always rest on his lips unless I consent to marry his friend, George Melvin.

ROBERT. Never consent. You are now engaged to one who is a friend to both you and I, and before long I hope to see the tie that will bind you in everlasting matrimony.

BON. [*Aside.*] I know she loves me. [*Looking at NELL.*] Why would it not be as well to go over to the parson's in the village, and be married at once?

NELL. No, we must marry in our own cabin.

ROBERT. Just as you please.

BON. It doesn't make any particular difference to me, as long as we get over them mountains; I'm afraid we shall have a pretty rough time of it.

*Enter GUARD L. 4 E.*

GUARD. The old lady sailed for Europe in a special train of cars. Hallo, Bob! I see you have not left the house yet, waiting for me, I suppose? I am determined to stick by you like a dandy legged mosquito. Say, Bob! I am struck very much with the appearance of two singular looking young men standing out by the garden wall; they look kind of cunning and treacherous, but seem to be cowardly. I heard one of them say he would have the girl if the devil stood before him, so keep your eyes on both sides, and don't even let them get a squint at her.

ROBERT. [*Rises and goes towards door.*] I will go and listen to more of their conversation.

GUARD. I will accompany you, by Jove! [*Ereunt L. 4 E.*]

NELL. I fear we are already in danger; they are waiting, I know, for us to leave the house.

BON. Let them wait. Those hateful and envious men seek to destroy you, but not while I am here to defend. Come, Nell, sing me one of your favorite songs.

NELL. *rises and steps forward and sings "I Will be True to Thee."*  
*After singing resumes seat.*

BON. [*Puts his arm around her.*] That cheers me with a new source of life. I little thought when I left you some time ago, that my absence would be so long. I trust we shall not be separated again very soon.

NELL. There is not much certainty in the affairs of this world after all. [*Rests head on hand, thinking.*]

BON. [*Aside.*] I would lay down my life for her.

NELL. I only wish I could forget.

BON. Forget what?

NELL. That dream.

BON. What dream?

NELL. [*Puts her hand on his shoulder.*] A dream I had last night. I only wish I could forget it, for whenever I think of it a dark cloud appears before my eyes.

BON. [*Takes her hand.*] I should like to hear it if it will not tire you to tell.

NELL. Oh, no! it will not take long.

BON. Well, go on, I am ready.

NELL. Not far from the old cabin, I thought you and I were roaming about—

BON. [*Interrupting.*] Am I in the dream?

NELL. Oh, yes! Over the hills and fields we glided until we reached a high cliff, which projected over a deep river. As we stood and gazed on the calm waters beneath, there emerged from behind a rock the forms of George Melvin and Samuel Thorsby.

They threw me from that cliff, and I fell down into the dark, deep waters beneath, while you struggled with them until all strength had left you. I then awoke from my slumber, and found it nothing but a dream.

BON. That's a bad dream; I can hardly appreciate such a sight, though if it should come true, and I meet these villains face to face, one of us must get hurt.

NELL. We must keep from their sight, if not, destruction will be complete, and my entire worldly wealth swallowed up, and we, resigned, must look forward in despair.

BON. I will not see you taken by those villains while I have power to fight them down.

*Enter GUARD and ROBERT L. 4 E.*

GUARD. It's no use, Bob, they are bound to have the gal.

ROBERT. Yes, they still wait for us to leave the house.

NELL. [*Rises and goes towards ROBERT.*] If they want me, why don't they come and take me?

BON. [*Rises.*] Not while I'm here can they step within this room. I would slip a noose around their necks, and hang them safely up for their own personal good. [*Advances towards NELL.*] You, Nell, have called my attention more than once to the characters of these villains. I hate them, and the very ground they walk on. Remember, even if it be with terror and horror, by slow degrees, [*gets excited*] I say the image of their hideous forms which threaten your life, shall gnash their teeth, and bewail their crime, through jaws of agony and death. Even if I walk the steps to the gallows, they shall not drag you down and humble you to their envious work. No! [*draws knife and starts to go*] I'll satisfy myself that you will be saved.

NELL. [*Holds him back.*] Oh! do not go where they are, I beg of you; stay for the sake of one who loves you. Step not in the way of those who have been the cause of so much wretchedness. Pray be calm and patient, and keep down this temper which rises. Let them follow us if they will, but lift not your hand to strike them until some violent cause is given.

BON. [*Puts away knife.*] Enough said. I shall do as you say.

GUARD. Yes, you had better mind her.

GUARD *sits down in a curious manner, takes paper and cigar from pocket, reads and smokes.*

ROBERT. There is nothing like being on the watch when a row is going to take place, so I'll gain all the information I can. [*Exit L. 4 E.*]

GUARD. That's right, Squire. Just keep your eye outside.

*NELL and BOB sit down on sofa.*

BON. You look quite pale, do you not feel well? Perhaps I have frightened you?

GUARD. Well, I guess you have.

NELL. No, I am not so easily frightened; I was thinking if ever a dream came true.

BON. Yes, I believe a good dream comes true.

GUARD. So do I.

NELL. Many a night I have sat at home in the old cabin, listening to the rain and snow as it pattered on the window panes; no voice could be heard without, nothing but a continued whistle of the wind through the trees. Silently and alone, as I watched by the window for the appearance of my father, my eyes closed in slumber, and I imagined myself tossing like a boat on the water.

GUARD. She drowned herself, just as I expected.

BON. Is that all of it?

NELL. Yes, are you anxious to hear more?

BON. If there is any more.

GUARD. Lost forever, there's no more. [*Puts away paper and rises.*] I shall receive orders for the next hour, and pay up for the balance of my life. Forty-four thousand hands wanted to fight a duel! [*Advances towards BOB.*] I say, Bob! do you not feel well? I most solemnly implore you not to stir from this house until I return. [*Exit L. 4 E.*]

NELL. What can he mean?

BOB. Something certainly is wrong.

*Enter ROBERT L. 4 E.*

ROBERT. Be as quiet as you possibly can, for they are nearer to the house.

SAM. I tell you she is inside the house, I heard her voice.

GEO. Is there no way to get in?

SAM. No, every door is barred; don't be in a hurry, there's time enough.

BON. Do you hear that, Nell? we must go from this house immediately. You and Robert will start on ahead, while I wait for my friend. [*BOB and NELL rise, BOB gets cloak and places it around NELL.*] The morning air is damp, and this will keep you from being cold.

NELL. [*Gets hurt.*] Can you find the way?

BOB. Yes, I will soon be with you, so hurry on before they enter the house.

NELL. [*Takes BOB by hand.*] I am afraid something will happen to you.

BOB. Oh, no; go on to the first woods you reach, and there wait; I will meet you if I have to go through a den of lions.

NELL. [*Kisses him.*] Good by, until we meet. [*NELL and ROBERT Exit L. 4 E.*]

BOB. Heaven bless you, Nell! Good by, Good by! [*Wipes eyes with handkerchief. Report of a pistol, BON starts.*] What's that?

*Enter GUARD L. 4 E, excited.*

GUARD. We have to skeddadle, Bob, they're trying to knock down the house. Where's Nell and the Squire?

BON. I sent them on ahead. If we hurry we can overtake them.

GUARD. It will never do to see them get hurt, Bob. I'll stick to you like a flea.

GEO. There they go, making for the woods.

BON. [*Starts for door.*] Come on, there's no time to be lost. [*Seizes hat and exit R. 4 E.*]

GUARD. Seize the villain! [*Exit R. 4 E.*]

*Enter ESTHER and IRENE*

EST. I have seen all, more than I can bear. His words have come true; how can we own him as a brother? When I told you he would not stay long with us, you would not believe me; now he has gone.

IRE. Hear me when I tell you, the day will soon come when he will be placed before us, a lifeless corpse.

EST. Rather would I see him so, than what he is now. He is our only brother, and it makes my heart ache to think of his past life. I cannot love him, I cannot.

IRE. Oh! do not speak so, you know he has always been kind to us.

EST. What has he been to others? Nothing but a man who plunders and steals all within his reach. [*Falls into IRENE's arms. Slow music.*] Irene! tell him when you see him, that he has been the cause of my death. I long for a kind word from him; could I live to hear him speak, then—[*Sinks back.*]

IRE. [*Startled.*] What! dying? Speak once more! once more! [*Wiping eyes with handkerchief.*]

EST. Farewell, dear sister; I leave you for a better world. Tell him all is well.

IRE. Alas! her sufferings are ended

## SCENE II. Woods

*Enter NELL and ROBERT.*

ROBERT. This is the place where Mr. Haley said he would meet us.

NELL. Pa, I'm afraid something will happen to him. Should he be killed, what in the world would become of us? Nothing can save us if I do not consent to marry George Melvin. [*Enter SAM and GEORGE R. 1 E.*] I do not love him, I hate him worse than poison.

SAM holds handkerchief under ROBERT's nose, GEO. under NELL's. They fall in their arms.

GEO. Now, my girl, we have you this time.

*Enter BOB and GUARD L. 1 E, GUARD with umbrella.*

GUARD. Oh, Lord! they have the girl. [*Sudden burst of music, raises umbrella to strike. BOB draws knife. SAM and GEO. draw pistols and point at them.*]

END OF ACT III.

## ACT IV.

SCENE I. Opens representing woods, snow falling. Log cabin on right with practicable door and window. Fire place on right of cabin, lounge or sofa. Table and chairs, glasses and bottle on table; also a rope by door. Dark stage. Quick music.

*Enter GEO. carrying NELL L. 3 E., goes in cabin and lays her down.*

GEO. Now, my lady, that Bob will never see you again. There, sleep away now while I make a fire. [*Lights fire.*] There's no use of freezing when there's plenty of wood to keep us warm. I tell you we had a pretty rough time of it, there's no mistake. [*Turns his back to fire and looks at NELL.*] She's a darned pretty girl, I swear.

*Enter SAM with ROBERT, L. 3 E. Sets him down by tree.*

SAM. I reckon I gave you a pretty good dose, you sleep like a horse. [*Goes in cabin and gets rope.*]

GEO. Hallo, Sam! Where's the old man?

SAM. I have him out here, all safe. [*Goes out to ROBERT and ties him to tree.*] I'll make you suffer for about an hour. When you get tired of holding up this tree, change off and let the tree hold you up. [*Starts to go.*] Now, my man, you are all right, in one hour you'll be lifeless. [*Goes in cabin and looks at NELL.*] She still sleeps.

GEO. Yes. It's better to let her sleep a while yet. [*SAM and GEO. seat themselves by table. NELL awakes.*]

NELL. Oh! how cold it is. Where am I? [*Starts up.*]

GEO. We have you now, my lady; you can't escape this time.

NELL. Who are you? tell me!

GEO. [*Aside.*] Has she forgotten me? [*Looks at NELL.*] I am George Melvin, and am bound to have you for my wife.

NELL. Oh, cruel man! Where's my father?

SAM. Never mind about your father, but consent to marry this friend. [*Points to GEORGE.*]

GEO. I will give you one half hour to decide whether you will be my wife, or the wife of one who will not own you.

NELL. Marry you George Melvin I never will. I hate and despise you both. Oh! why have you brought me to this miserable cold spot, where no living soul can find me?



SAM. That's the fact, they can't find you.

GEO. I reckon they will have to follow our tracks like a dog, if they ever reach here.

SAM. They'll never find you, my dear Nell.

NELL. Cruel man!

SAM. What have I done to be cruel; have I not always proved a comfort to your parents?

NELL. Yes, until death grasped them by the hand.

SAM. I would have sacrificed my own life for them, for I loved them as no man could, but you I loved more than all; tell me you will marry George Melvin, and you will feel happier for your actions; say the word, that you may gain a footing upon solid ground.

NELL. No, never will I marry him; my name shall not be changed to that of a villain.

GEO. All right my gal, keep on thinking so; you shall either be my wife, or die in agony and despair.

NELL. Rather would I cast myself into the sea, than become the wife of you who I cannot love; you are nothing but a hard-hearted villain.

SAM. Be careful, Nell; not so loud.

NELL. And you, a murderer and thief. Think of the day you attempted to kill my father, and deprive me of all I possess. Oh, Samuel! what cause has been given you for this? Think of my home, and your home, where kind sisters wait to meet you once more, but, alas! I am afraid one has passed from your sight forever, and you'll never more see her on earth.

GEO. [*Gets up and goes towards her.*] Now, my gal, when you say you'll marry me, I'll let you go from here.

NELL. Here you have placed me, maybe never more to leave. But I now tell you again, my name is Norton, and I shall never change it to Melvin; to marry you would be my death.

GEO. All right, as soon as you are ready let me know.

SAM. We traveled quite a distance for the sake of you, and we can't let you go.

ROBERT. Loosen me from this tree, that I may see the comfort I once did, and never lay hands on me again.

NELL. [*Starts.*] That's my father's voice. [*Tries to get out of cabin. GEO. holds door.*] Let me out that I may see him; you would not let him perish in the cold? No, if we must be in this dark and lonesome place, have mercy, and keep him from the cold. Place him by the fire, where he can see his only daughter's face, and say once more "Heaven bless you, Nell."

GEO. [*Sets NELL down.*] We have had enough noise out of you, so keep quiet; you'll scare all the animals out of their sleep. [*NELL lies down.*] That's right, take a rest; when your half hour is up, we will call you.

SAM. She looks like a perfect picture.

GEO. Yes, and I'm bound to have her, if I don't live a month afterwards. There's no nonsense should look at me so scornfully.

SAM. She'll soon let down her fiery temper; let her sleep it off.

GEO. I have not entered this place for nothing, and she must consent to marry me or no one. [*Goes to window and looks out.*] It's a dreadful night out; no moon or stars are visible, and the snow is still falling. But what's that I see? some human being is seated on the frozen ground.

SAM. Oh it's no one but my uncle.

GEO. Oh yes, I had forgotten he was out there.

SAM. George! wretched as I am, I cannot see him perish in the cold; something tells me I must let him see the fire once more. [*Goes out by ROBERT.*] Now, Robert, I'll let you go inside. [*Pauses.*] He does not speak. [*Shakes him.*] Robert! wake up! I want to speak to you. [*Raises ROBERT's hand, it drops.*] Alas! he is dead. [*Walks slowly back and re-enters cabin.*]

GEO. Why did you not bring him in?

SAM. [*Agitated.*] How can I? he is lifeless.

GEO. [*Astonished.*] What! dead?

SAM. Yes.

GEO. Why did you not bring him inside when we first arrived?

SAM. Anger prevented me.

GEO. Well, if he's breathed his last, the only thing for us to do is to keep mum.

SAM. You take it cool, I must say.

GEO. I reckon it's the best way; no one will ever know where he is, so what's the odds? I think the best thing we can do, is to have some sleep before that gal wakes up. She'll have another one of them mad spells, I suppose, when she sees us. So here goes for an old sounder. [*Both lie down.*]

SAM. Just sing out when you wake up, for the Lord knows whenever I'll get enough sleep.

GEO. You had better sleep as sound as you can.

SAM. That's my intention, so good night!

GEO. Good night. [*SAM snores.*]

NELL. [*Awakes.*] They sleep; now is my time to escape. [*Rises and goes to door. GEORGE gets up quickly and takes her by the arm.*]

GEO. No you don't, my gal. [*Leads her to seat.*] Sit down and keep quiet; you are a nice girl, you are; trying to run away from your home, hey?

NELL. My home?

GEO. Yes, your home.

NELL. I want you to understand that I would not own such a home as this.

GEO. If I'm right, this will always be your home, unless you marry me. When you consent to be my wife, then I'll procure for you a better one. I love you, Nell, yet you have some cause to avoid my gaze, and shrink from me as if you knew me not. Many hard words have passed between us, but now I hope we will hear no more. Why not pronounce the day when I shall wed you? Then your heart will not be throbbing and beating with excitement, your prospects will grow brighter, and you will live a life of perfect happiness.

NELL. I tell you again that I cannot marry you.

GEO. You are bound to have your own way. [*Kicks SAM.*] Come, get up! the gal's awake, and as cross as ever.

SAM. [*Yawns.*] All right. [*Rises and yawns.*] You have aroused me from a delicious sleep.

GEO. I know it, but the time has nearly arrived for that decided answer.

SAM. Well, how is it to be decided? I don't suppose she'll give her consent.

GEO. I'll tell you what we'll do, toss up for the gal; if it comes down head, she'll have to marry or die; if not, we'll let her go. [*Feels in pocket for penny.*]

NELL. [*Aside.*] Where can he be? He said he would meet us. I know there is no hope of ever seeing him.

GEO. [*Tossing up penny.*] Here's luck.

SAM. What is it?

GEO. Heads, sure; the gal's mine. [*Returns penny to pocket, and looks at NELL.*] Now, my pretty creature, your time is short.

SAM. Yes, you had better say you will marry. [*Sits by table.*]

NELL. I do say that I will marry one whom I love, but not you, George Melvin. No, I would rather lie a lifeless girl at your feet, murdered by your own hands in cold blood, than have you for my husband.

GEO. I suppose so. Do you know what I've a mind to do with you? I've a good notion to drag you on further towards your home, let you see it once more, then murder you, and burn it to the ground.

NELL. That would be some relief to this poor heart, if I could only see the home that I so dearly loved. But why do you wait? As there is no hope of my ever seeing the man I love, why not kill me at once? Then when I am lying cold within your sight, call me back if you can.

GEO. [*Sniggering.*] I don't think you would come back if I called you.

NELL. No, George, a thousand calls would not raise me to speak again.

GEO. Every time I look in your face, something tells me you are true. You are just the gal I want for a wife, so, say the word, and married we will be.

NELL. How many times have I told you that I would not consent? [*Tries to get away.* GEO. *holds her.*] Let me go home from this place; I will stay here no longer.

GEO. No, my gal, not until you say you will become my wife. You can't get away, so keep quiet. [*Sets her down.*] Sit down, or I'll make you say your prayers. [*Sits down by table.*] Come, Sam, let's have some of that good brandy.

SAM. [*Fills glasses.*] It's mighty strong, I tell you.

GEO. [*Offering glass to NELL.*] Say, gal, will you have a drink? I don't want you to starve. [*Pauses.*] Won't have any, hey? Well, here's good luck. [*They drink.*]

SAM. Fill up again. [*Fill glasses.*] May Nell marry you and live happy all the days of her life.

GEO. That's a good 'un, that's tip top. [*They drink and GEO. yawns.*] I'm as sleepy as a possum.

SAM. You had better lie down for half an hour or so.

GEO. No, there's work to be done soon, for that gal's time is nearly up.

SAM. I wouldn't hurry her any. She'll come to her senses by and by. Just take a little sleep, and when you wake up you will have more courage to force her into this marriage.

GEO. All right. [*Rises.*] Keep your eye on her, for she'll scoot the first chance she gets. [*Lies down.*]

SAM. Don't be alarmed.

NELL. [*Aside.*] Oh! where can he be? Something, I know, has happened to him. He promised me faithfully that he would meet us.

SAM. [*Looking at NELL.*] You had better make up your mind to wed before he wakes.

NELL. Urge me no more, for this is some foolish notion which may soon pass away. You are a heartless and cruel man! Oh! Samuel, the day will come when you will pay for all your crimes.

SAM. [*Aside.*] What can she mean? [*Looks at NELL.*] My crimes?

NELL. Yes! Tell me how it was that my poor mother met her death?

SAM. I cannot tell.

NELL. Do you not remember the day when she started from home, and when not hardly out of my sight, there sprang from behind a tree the form of a man, who dashed her down from that hill on the sharp, pointed rocks below? Who was it that did that wicked and cruel deed? Who was it that attempted to kill my father, and who now threatens my life for the sake of a cowardly villain?

SAM. I know nothing about it.

NELL. If you do not know, then I will tell you. It was you who committed the crime, and I was the only one to see you. It was you who tried to kill my father, and it is you who is trying to kill me.

SAM. [*Draws knife and starts towards her.*] Keep that mouth closed, or I'll close it for you. Don't say another word, for no one must know of that murder. Promise me you will not speak of it again.

NELL. I cannot promise. I will not.

SAM. [*Raising knife.*] Only for him who sleeps, I would strike you down.

NELL. Kill me if you will, coward! Traitor!

SAM. [*Sneeringly resumes seat and lays knife on table.*] Come, get up there; it's time to finish our work. Do you hear? get up, I say.

GEO. [*Yawning.*] All right.

SAM. How long will it take you to move?

GEO. [*Rises and sits by table.*] Now, look here! Don't you talk that way any more. I own this shanty and everything that's in it.

SAM. [*Laughing.*] Come, fill up and drink hearty. Once more for success. [*Fills glasses.*]

GEO. [*Takes knife from table and shows it to NELL.*] Look here, gal! do you see this?

SAM. [*Takes knife from him and lays it on table.*] You'll scare her so we can't talk to her. [*They drink.*]

GEO. This will long be remembered. [*Rises and sits by NELL.*] Well, gal, how do you enjoy yourself?

NELL. [*Moves away.*] I hate the sight of you, do not come near me.

SAM. [*Looking at NELL.*] You had better keep quiet and say nothing of that little affair.

NELL. Never will it be forgotten, you are the—

SAM. [*Quickly.*] Stop! don't you say another word. [*Takes knife and advances towards her.*] If you do, I'll [*raises knife*] make you talk Latin forever.

GEO. [*Takes knife from him.*] There's time enough for all this; wait until we hear what she has to say.

SAM. She is bound to have her own way, so why not kill her at once?

NELL. [*Rises.*] Here I stand before you, with no hopes of ever being freed from this miserable place. You have threatened my life more than once, and now I can only say, I will not marry George Melvin, or own him as a friend. Kill me, if you will, then tell the man I love, that I died a noble death.

GEO. [*Looks at watch.*] Your fatal moment has arrived. Have you anything more to say?

Enter GUARD with umbrella, L. 3 E., beckoning for BOB, looks around and goes to ROBERT. Gazes in astonishment, unties him and beats his hands and feet with umbrella.

NELL. [*Aside.*] I shall never see him again.

SAM. Speak quickly, or your life will not be spared.

NELL. What shall I say? Have I not told you all?

GEO. Tell me you will marry me, or lay cold and lifeless at my feet.

NELL. George, I would rather go through the world homeless and penniless, than bow my head so low as to marry you who I cannot love.

GEO. Then, my gal, take—[*raises knife. Hesitates.*]

NELL. [*Earnestly.*] I reject your love, why do you hesitate? Send the cold steel crushing through my heart, and all will be over.

GEO. [*Drops head and throws knife on table.*] Take it away; I will not kill you. No, cruel as I am, something tells me to spare your life, as it will be a decided change in the future. Should I kill you here, where no human form can enter, your spirit would haunt me night and day. I love you, Nell, and shall have a kiss from your sweet lips.

NELL. [*Draves back.*] Never! Sir.

GEO. And you still refuse to marry?

NELL. This question need not pass far on its way, ere it finds a response from my lips and heart; I still refuse to marry you, so farewell. [*Makes a run for the door.*]

GEO. [*Stops her.*] Not quite so fast, my gal; easy, if you please. [*Takes knife from table.*] Here, while my heart is bounding with joy, you say your last words on earth.

NELL. I warn you to leave me quietly, and pace your steps home, for I am not afraid of a coward and villain like you.

GEORGE and NELL grasp each other in a struggle, knife falls. Enter BOB L. 3 E., quickly goes to window. SAM seizes knife and raises it at NELL. BOB leaps through window, points pistols at GEO. and SAM. NELL falls in BOB's arms. ROBERT rises. GUARD shakes hands with him rejoicingly.

SCENE II. *Woods the same as in last scene of 3rd act.**Enter GUARD and ROBERT R. 1 E.*

GUARD. I charge you only fifteen cents, and I was certainly obliged to see you on one condition.

ROBERT. And what condition was that?

GUARD. That in which you were placed, of course. Had it not been for me, you would have died. You see I have restored you to your health.

ROBERT. Surely I have been dreaming.

GUARD. Well, I guess you have.

ROBERT. I recollect nothing of the event, Sir; yet I shall pay you for the trouble you have taken on your own responsibility. [*Takes out wallet.*] What shall I pay you?

GUARD. Only fifteen cents.

ROBERT. [*Hands bill.*] Here's one dollar, have you change?

GUARD. [*Takes it, feeling in his pockets*] I hardly think I have, but it's good. Five hundred would not pay me for my trouble. [*Places money in pocket.*] I'll just preserve this bill until I get hungry, when I'll go for it.

ROBERT. I can hardly remember any thing that occurred, sir, and I see no reason for paying so large a sum as five hundred dollars for one life. But where is my daughter?

GUARD. She'll be here shortly. Bob, I think, has had a pretty rough time in winning her from the hands of them two gorillas. I heard them dancing in that shanty like a swarm of huckleberries, and saw Bob go through the window like a thunderstorm. He's got the girl, you bet, for he never begins a job without finishing it.

ROBERT. He's a brave fellow. Let me see, five hundred dollars for one life, what would it be for two, sir?

GUARD. It would be twice that amount, which is one, ought, ought, ought; that makes one thousand.

ROBERT. One thousand dollars for two lives, which I owe to you and Mr. Haley; you shall have it as soon as I reach home.

GUARD. I'll stick to you like a steam car, Squire! and improve my time by setting snares for them husky elephants, for the Lord knows whenever they will get paid for their work. I'm sure Bob has all he can do in escaping with the gal, so I'll make myself useful, and fight until the last feather falls from my alabaster roof. Don't get excited, Squire! you are all right, now. This is the place they carried you from, and here is the place I walked you to, so be easy, and don't get riley. [*Draws revolver.*] Here's the cannon that don't explode one hundred yards to the acre, hit or miss. Have you ever shot any one, Squire?

ROBERT. No, my dear fellow, that's not in my line of business. I harm no one.

GUARD. Perfectly harmless, hey? Now you are the best old man I've ever seen, by ginger. I'll stick to you like a porpoise. There, I'm off the track again.

ROBERT. One thousand dollars, which is to be divided in halves.

GUARD. [*Looking off L.*] Squire, here comes an elephant, so I'll divide him. [*Points pistol.*]

YACOB. Vait a leetle, vonce. I vas coming py myself.

GUARD. [*Puts away pistol.*] I'm blown if it aint a Dutchman. Come on! or I'll knock you into the middle of next week.

*Enter YACOB SNEIDHEIMER L. 1 E.*

YACOB. Yah, yah! I vas here.

ROBERT. Who are you, sir?

YACOB. I vas myself all alone coming by this woods. Hello! -hail keeper, how vas you? I vas glad to see you. Don't you know me vonce, hey? I vas your friend Yacob Sneiderheimer, vot keep the lager bier saloon on dat street cross mid your house.

GUARD. [*Shakes hands with him.*] I'm glad to see you.

YACOB. I vas so glad as never vas. [*Takes out bottle and offers it to GUARD.*] Could you be so kind as to drink a leetle on it vonce?

GUARD takes bottle, and as he is about to drink, ROBERT takes it from him.

ROBERT. You must not fall into bad company.

YACOB. Mine Got! you vas a thief. [*Seizes bottle from ROBERT and puts it in pocket.*] I keep it now by myself vonce, for it vas the best superior quality.

GUARD. Everything has gone to smash, and I'm off the track again.

YACOB. Yah, that vas so, shail keeper, mine frow vas gone to smash.

GUARD. By an accident, I suppose.

YACOB. No, I guess not so, she vas died by the cholera; and shust before she said Yacob! she vas gone allway.

GUARD. I am very sorry to hear of your wife's death, I must say.

YACOB. Yah, so vas I. Don't you got some poony girls vat I makes love mid?

ROBERT. Come, Dutchee! move on! we haven't time to listen to your long conversation.

YACOB. [*To GUARD.*] Who vas that yellow vat spoken?

GUARD. That's Mr. Robert Norton, of Princeton County.

YACOB. Vas that so? vas he the fellow vat got murdered?

GUARD. If he vas murdered, I hardly think he would be here.

YACOB. Oh! excuse me, shail keeper, it vas his shadow; I vas forgotten myself vonce.

GUARD. Most likely.

ROBERT. Dutchee! you must leave this place at once.

YACOB. Yah, yah, I vas going alone by mincelf. Good by, shemblemens. [*Exit R. 1 E.*]

ROBERT. It is time Mr. Haley and Nell were here; something must have happened.

GUARD. Oh, no! Squire, take it easy, if you please; as soon as they reach us, we will go on to the village.

ROBERT. [*Looking off R.*] Here they come, on a dead run, as if some one was after them.

GUARD. [*Throws up hat.*] Hurry, Bob! don't let them see you. Once more free from our wicked enemies.

*Enter BOB and NELL R. 1 E., as if out of breath.*

GUARD. Bravo! Bravo!

ROBERT. [*Goes to NELL.*] We meet again. I hope with brighter prospects for the future, to carry us back to our old cabin. [*NELL and ROBERT embrace.*]

BOB. We cannot stop here, for they are following us.

GUARD. Come to the village, Bob! I'll stick to you always.

ROBERT. Yes, we will have to walk pretty fast, or they will overtake us. [*Exeunt L. 1 E.*]

*Enter SAM and GEO. R. 1 E.*

SAM. I started for this cabin, and as I reached the lofty mountains, I saw at a distance coming towards me, the figure of her mother. I stepped to the side of a tree where I could not be seen. She walked up the path, and was passing quietly by, when I sprang from my hiding place, and grasped her by the arm. She turned, and cried out, Samuel! what are you doing? I then said, give me all the money you have in your possession. She refused me, and I threw her down from that mountain on the rocks below. Nell rushed from the cabin, and hurried on to where her mother laid, and I made her promise that she would tell no one of the crime. I carried her mother to the house, she breathed very low, and as the long day wore away, her words were, Robert! Robert! Soon as the sun went down below the hills, and the darkness of night appeared, I gazed quietly on her bruised and mangled form; she said Farewell! and the horrible truth flashed upon me that she was dead. Nell, I am afraid, will now reveal the secret of her mother's death to her father. So, on for the chase! I will not spare her life by any means. [*Exeunt L. 1 E. Enter YACOB R. 1 E.*]

YACOB. Dem fellows got bad eyes. I votch you a little, vonce, I go now by myself alone. [*Exit L. 1 E.*]



SCENE III. *A country village. GUARD's house on right. Lager beer saloon on left. Practicable doors. Loose bricks on chimneys of GUARD's house. Also, scuttle leading to roof. Music.*

*Enter SAM and GEORGE U. C. Advance opposite saloon.*

SAM. They have not reached here yet.

GEO. No, they're not going to hurry themselves any. All I want is a good fair chance to win the gal, and I'll do it without any trouble.

SAM. Courage, my dear man, courage! After all the trouble we have had, I think we had better work a plan to end their lives, to seal the sweet smiles upon their features, and make them laugh the low, quiet laugh of contentment.

GEO. [*Aside.*] That gal loves another. [*To SAM.*] But how could them devilish fellows find their way to our hut through the dark and lonesome woods? and how is it that your uncle came to life after he was dead?

SAM. I'll never tell you, it is to us a mystery. Nell has branded deep down in my aching heart, the wretched words traitor and coward. I know I am, so what is the use of her telling me. Ah, well! I suppose all will come right some day.

GEO. Yes, we can only be burdened with deep sorrow; so turn away that which lingers in your mind.

SAM. I'll think of it no more. [*Looks down.*]

GEO. That gal must be true to Bob when she'll go through all this misery. However, I'll soon make her look upon him with altered eyes, unless she turns and follows me. [*Looks at SAM.*] Why are you so still?

SAM. I am calling back the remembrance of that day when Nell's mother was last conscious. A vivid recollection of it bursts at once on my mind.

GEO. [*Laying hand on Sam's shoulder.*] Come! you must forget all that's past and gone.

SAM. I will, with virility; but we must not wait here.

GEO. No, for they will be along directly.

SAM. If they cross the river we can get Nell without any trouble; so come and have a drink. [*Exeunt in saloon. Enter YACOB U. C.*]

YACOB. I was here vonce more by myself; this was the place where mine frow went died. Every time I think of it, it makes me cry. [*Takes large yellow handkerchief from pocket, and wipes his eyes.*] I was so sorry, she never will see her Yacob again. Ya, she was died. I think I make myself some customers. [*Exit in saloon.*]

*Enter GUARD, BOB, NELL, and ROBERT, laughing as they enter, and advance opposite GUARD's house.*

GUARD. Only see what a splendid house I live in; and the funny Dutchman lives right opposite.

NELL. This is quite a village. But why do you live near a liquor store?

GUARD. Well, you see it's no harm as long as you don't drink. I never make a practice of drinking, unless I am pretty dry.

ROBERT. I feel now that we are safe.

GUARD. Yes, Squire, them damnifick rascals will never come here.

BOB. [*Looking at GUARD.*] You will go with us to the river, will you not?

GUARD. Yes, I'll stick to you all the way through.

YACOB. [*In saloon.*] Who pays vonce for that last drink?

SAM. That's all right, hang it up, and you'll never forget it.

NELL. [*Startled.*] They are here! [*All look towards saloon.*]

GEO. If you don't keep still, I'll settle your hash.

GUARD. Follow me. [*Goes to the door of his house and opens it.*] Pack yourselves away in here, while I cure their rattling jaws.

BOB. It will never do for them to see us.

*All exeunt in house except GUARD, who closes door and advances to c.*

GUARD. Now, come on you bawling traitors, I am ready for a thousand. [*Takes out pistol.*]

*Enter SAM and GEO. from saloon.*

GEO. Hallo! here's one of the coons. [*Goes up to GUARD.*] Say! where's that gal?

GUARD. [*Points pistol at him.*] Go, and find out.

GEO. [*Grasps it from him.*] Now you git, as fast as you can.

GUARD. [*Runs.*] Oh, Lord! [*Exit in house.*]

GEO. Let us search the house.

SAM. Yes, we may find her some where. [*Goes to door and tries to open it.*] There is no way to get in, the door is locked.

GUARD. [*Appears on roof looking down the scuttle.*] There is no salvability of your being saved. [*SAM and GEO. step back and look at GUARD.*]

SAM. Come down! or I'll fire.

GUARD. [*Gets behind chimney.*] Fire away, you pesky devils.

*SAM and GEO. fire, YACOB rushes from saloon with blunderbuss.*

YACOB. You pay me for that drink once. [*Points out of blunderbuss at SAM. Blunderbuss goes off and YACOB drops dead. GUARD throws brick from chimney, which SAM and GEO dodge.*]

GEO. Stop! for a moment.

GUARD. I'll have no mercy. [*Stands in an attitude with pistol in one hand and brick in the other. SAM and GEO. looking at him frantically.*]

## ACT V.

SCENE I. *A river. Rocks on L. projecting over water. Music. Nell, Robert and Guard discovered standing on rocks.*

NELL. Thank heaven we are free!

GUARD. So is the morning air, just as free and cool. [*Sits down on end of rocks over water.*] I am easy, Squire.

ROBERT. We are situated on a firm rock that will not give way. Mr. Haley worked hard for our good, and you were of great assistance to him.

GUARD. Yes, I'm there every time. I don't think they will follow us now, for I scared them like flies in huckleberry time.

NELL. [*Putting hand on ROBERT's shoulder.*] Pa, I shall reveal to you an oath which I was made to take by Samuel. I have kept it in secret long enough.

GUARD. [*Looking off right.*] There's no signs of him yet.

ROBERT. Tell me all you know about the infernal rascal.

NELL. I shall. Do you remember the day when you were lying at home very ill?

ROBERT. Yes, and I shall never forget it.

NELL. Mother, you know, started for Samuel's residence, and as she reached the mountains which we shall cross, she fell, causing her death.

ROBERT. Yes, I know all.

NELL. No you don't, for Samuel was the man who sent her away from us.

ROBERT. [*Astonished.*] What! my nephew the cause of her death? It cannot be!

NELL. Do you not believe me, when I saw him with my own eyes dash her down on the craggy rocks below? I ran to where she lay, when he seized me and made me take an oath that I would not tell anyone of the horrible crime.

ROBERT. The glory of her beauty is passed away, and the beaming splendor which shone from her countenance is gone forever. Now I am satisfied that she met her death at the hands of that cowardly villain.

GUARD. [*Looking at ROBERT.*] Have you settled upon any opinion as to what will be the end of your nephew?

ROBERT. No, sir! I have not the least idea.

GUARD. Well, Squire, he'll kill himself like the funny Dutch man.

NELL. When will this fearful journey end?

GUARD. I don't care if it never ends, for all is mystery, wonder and excitement. [*Feeling his stomach.*] I wouldn't care if I had something to eat, just now, I feel kind of loose.

ROBERT. Mr. Haley does not seem to be in any hurry, the package was left there, and surely he could have no trouble in finding it.

GUARD. Take it easy, Squire, we'll stop here for a year if the law will allow us. I guess Bob is waiting for a shot at them splendiferous marksmen. Easy, if you please, for a true heart will never go astray.

NELL. Is that your belief?

GUARD. Yes, without joking; but why don't you sit down and make yourselves miserable? A tiresome sail we had, and a little rest will do you good.

[*NELL sits down on L. of GUARD and ROBERT on R.*]

NELL. I am anxious to reach our own land, and not tread on the soil of others.

GUARD. That's law, I suppose, but I am not particular where I am, or which way I go. Things will take a change before long, and then I'll be on the other side of the world.

NELL. Are you going to leave the place?

GUARD. Yes, and sail for Europe. You recollect the old lady we saw at the homestead, who's name was Bogsby?

NELL. Yes, I remember.

GUARD. Well, I kind of took a notion for her. Just before she left, she wrote out this little receipt, and said, never forget your darling Carolina. [*Takes letter from pocket and hands it to NELL.*] Just read over the four last lines, they are so affectionate.

NELL. [*Takes letter and reads aloud.*] "Dear friend, were I not going to Europe, I would marry you at once. It almost breaks my heart to think of leaving you alone, but I hope it will not be long before you will visit me in my new palace, and share with me my wealth. Yours, my love, for ever and ever." [*Returns letter to GUARD.*]

ROBERT. That's a very nice letter, and you may take it for granted what she says she means.

GUARD. [*Putting letter in pocket.*] O yes, and there is a possibility of my having her.

ROBERT. My dear fellow, you have all the liberty you can desire. She's a nice old lady, and there's a good chance to pop.

GUARD. I'll do it, so help me Yacob.

NELL. [*Looking off.*] Pa, it must be very pleasant to live in that house beyond the Island.

ROBERT. Yes, it is in summer, but kind of dreary in winter. That is where Dr. Ross lives, of whom you have heard me speak so often. The house was built many years ago, by a gentleman of considerable wealth, and great taste. Many traces of its beauty are still remaining, although there has not been wealth enough in any family who have owned the place since his death, to keep up the garden in its original design. The vegetable garden was immense, intersected by wide gravel walks. Long grape arbors extended through another part of the garden, and, in a small square, given up to itself alone, stands a magnificent pine tree, the pride of the garden in the estimation of its owner. He enjoyed the shade of this tree, and planned many an improvement while reclining on the grass beneath it, but, could he have known that immediately after his sudden death, the progress of improvements would be checked, and his residence never brought to the state of perfection he had intended, he would scarcely have commenced building on so large a scale. When his estate came to be settled up, there was not one of the

heirs who could claim this place; it was therefore sold at a sacrifice, and the money divided. Beautiful as it certainly was, still there was a degree of sadness, mingled with admiration, in the minds of those who wandered among the wide walks and variegated flower beds.

NELL. It must have been splendid.

GUARD. Yes; most elephant.

NELL. But why does not Dr. Ross keep it like this gentleman?

ROBERT. Perhaps he cannot afford it. You know he is not in very good circumstances.

GUARD. [*Looking off.*] I don't see anything of Bob yet. I guess he's gone ashore on the island.

NELL. We shall have to wait for him.

GUARD. Yes. If he never comes, I'm going to see you home safe, if I have to hire a steamboat to take you. Hallo! it looks like Bob coming now.

NELL. Is he near?

GUARD. No, he's a good way off, far beyond the island.

ROBERT. I am glad he's on his way, it will be night before we can reach the mountains.

GUARD. He's going in another direction. Ah! some one follows him; one of them outrageous scamps, I'll bet.

ROBERT. Let us go on our way, Nell. Mr. Haley will find us before we get to the mountains.

GUARD. [*Rises.*] Yes, we had better start if we don't want to get seriously barned. Sure as that rascal sees us up here, he'll fire and wound some of us.

ROBERT. [*Rises.*] Come, Nell, we are pretty well rested, so we can walk quite a distance.

NELL. I will not go until Mr. Haley is with me. You may start if you like.

GUARD. Oh, Lord! they are going round the island. Bob is ahead, and I think he'll master him.

ROBERT. [*To NELL.*] You have made up your mind not to go, then, until Mr. Haley comes?

NELL. Yes, pa; you know I promised to wait for him, and I shall keep my word.

ROBERT. Probably it will be for the best. You know your father is getting old and can't walk fast, so we will make our way slowly along; then, when our day's toil is over, and we return to our cabin, we can sit and talk quietly and undisturbed.

NELL. I hope, with the free and pleasant sense of there being no one nigh at hand to make home miserable.

GUARD. [*Looking off.*] He's coming pretty fast, and will soon be with us.

NELL. Go on, pa, if you want, we will overtake you.

GUARD. It's a go, Squire! so slide down the rocks.

ROBERT. No, my young friend, I prefer walking.

GUARD. It will be the quickest way to get down. [*Exeunt off rocks.*]

NELL. This is my delight. Nothing pleases me more than to watch for him I love. No other man but Mr. Haley can call me his. At the hour of eight to-morrow evening, we shall be man and wife, and home in our little cabin. If I was blind, deaf, and dumb, then I might be foolish enough to marry that villain whom I despise. Life is sweet, but when the shadow of death draws nigh, it is sealed forever. You are true to me, as I will always be to you. [*Looks off.*]

SAM mounts rocks, attired in disguise of a sailor.

SAM. It's hard work climbing all these rocks.

NELL. What! a stranger?

SAM. Hallo, gal! this is a dangerous position you are in.

NELL. Oh, no, no, I—I guess not Sir!

SAM. Well I guess it is. Supposing you should fall asleep here and roll off into the river, I hardly think you would come out alive. Say! who are you anyhow?

NELL. I don't know as I should tell you.

SAM. I suppose it's none of my business, that's the fact. I'm trying to find a friend around here. Have you seen any gentleman in your travels? [*Sits by NELL.*]

NELL. Yes, plenty of them, but who are you looking for?

SAM. His name is Thorsby.

NELL. I'm acquainted with him, but he's not a gentleman.

SAM. Well, he's a man, anyhow.

NELL. He's a rogue.

SAM. Possibly. I am sorry you have such a poor opinion of him. You know a great deal about him, I suppose.

NELL. More than I ought to.

SAM. He has a companion who is with him considerably. Are you related to him? You look very much like him.

NELL. His name, please.

SAM. Melvin.

NELL. I hope I never will be related to a villain, sir! Why do you make all these inquiries?

SAM. For certain reasons which you will find out. I suppose you think me a pretty hard customer because I'm a sailor? [*Aside.*] If you do, you're right.

NELL. Do you belong to one of those boats below the island?

SAM. Yes, I have been on board for an hour. I just thought I would take a run up here, and see if Thorsby was around. I heard he had escaped from prison, and I'd like to see him.

NELL. I hope he will keep away from me.

SAM. You are not very good friends, by the way you talk.

NELL. No, there has been considerable trouble between us.

SAM. By-the-by, I'll bet your name is Norton.

NELL. Who was telling you?

SAM. I kind of surmise by expressions. Then you're the gal that's going to marry a fellow named Bob, hey?

NELL. To speak plain, that is my intention. You are very inquisitive. Why do you ask all this?

SAM. For me to learn this, will never do you any harm. I understand from Melvin, that you are on your way home. He's only down the stream here aways; Thorsby, I guess, has lost track of him.

NELL. I hope he never finds him. If ever I hated a man, I hate him and Melvin worse than poison.

SAM. Now, look here, gal! we're strangers, and I'll give you my opinion of them both. George is a perfect gentleman, but Sam is something more, and wiser. I have heard all about your troubles, and I must say that you are foolish if you don't take George for your sweetheart; you'll never have a better chance. What is Bob? Nothing but a poor, mean fellow. If he wasn't, he would never have went back on a friend who engaged him to murder your father.

NELL. For that I love him all the more. He worked hard to save my father, also the treasure which that rogue was after. Never run him down, for he'll master everything he undertakes.

SAM. No doubt they'll get the best of him yet, and you too, I'm afraid.

NELL. Never!

SAM. You take it easy; fool if you don't. But Melvin is getting Bob in a pretty tight place. If he can only run him ashore among them rocks, he'll kill him sure, and you will never see his face again.

NELL. It's very well for you to talk, but the next thing is for you to do it. It will take more than one villain to send him ashore.

SAM. Oh no, gal! you're mistaken. When Thorsby escaped from prison, who was it that released him?

NELL. Come! you had better look after your friends, and not waste your time in talking about them.

SAM. Getting angry, hey? I'm nothing but a common sailor, yet I can say that Melvin accomplishes his work. Nothing passes between them that I don't know. If that Bob marries you, he'll

have bad luck all the rest of his days. Melvin is a sly chap, so is Thorsby, afraid of no one, no one afraid of them.

NELL. Stranger! you speak the truth. I am not afraid of either one. Samuel once tried a life of honor, and well he knows it, but now it's a life of disgrace.

SAM. I'm sorry he turned out to be such a rogue. Your mother is dead, I hear.

NELL. How came you to find out?

SAM. Again I tell you I'm on the right side of the cowards. I have learned considerable on the last cruise; they're thirsting for vengeance, so keep quiet. Your father doesn't know that Thorsby caused your mother's death, does he?

NELL. Well, I wouldn't like to say.

SAM. He must never find it out, if he should I'm afraid he will cause yours. If Thorsby's words are true, you have taken an oath not to mention the circumstances under which your mother died.

NELL. I promised not to tell, but it was hard to keep that secret which wears out my very life. If I had known that Samuel would have turned out such a man, I should never have promised him. I have told my father all, and now he is satisfied. It had always seemed a mystery to him. He could not believe she fell, and often said it was some person who threw her from the mountains.

SAM. [*Aside.*] Just as I said. [*To NELL.*] You have done wrong in telling this secret. If I was Thorsby do you know what I would do with you? At some dark hour of the night I'd throw you into this river, where you would be swallowed up by the deep waters which lap around the precipitous cliffs.

NELL. Would you be so cruel?

SAM. It's just like me, I care for no one. Nothing but a sailor.

NELL. On what boat do you belong, sir?

SAM. No boat in particular, although I'm a friend of George Melvin. [*Aside.*] Now I have learned all. [*Rises.*]

NELL. [*Aside.*] What can he mean? [*To SAM.*] What is your name, sir?

SAM. [*Takes off disguise.*] I am the man who you called a traitor. Samuel Thorsby.

NELL. [*Starts to her feet with a scream.*] Great Heavens!

SAM. Now you shall die! [*Grasp each other in a struggle. NELL is thrown in water. Report of a pistol heard. SAM drops dead. BOB enters quickly in boat and rescues NELL from water.*]

## SCENE II. Representing a stone wall.

Enter GEO. R. 1 E., confused.

GEO. The devil's got the best of me after all, but I swear he shall not cross them mountains without my knowing it. Every one that follows my path shall die. I am certain I saw that gal standing on the rocks. Could I have reached her, she would never have smiled on him again. Curse the fellow! I say. Should he marry that gal, I'll give him just one week to live. [*Looks off right.*] There's no sign of Sam yet, I wonder where he can be; surely there's nothing happened to him. He's probably waiting at the foot of the mountains. Whether I meet you or not, Sam Thorsby, our work shall be completed without further delay. Through life they journey along, but unless that gal is mine, they meet their death while crossing the mountains near their home of desolation. [*Exit L. 1 E.*]

Enter GUARD and ROBERT R. 1 E.

GUARD. It's perfectly delightful, Squire; how many horses are you provided with?

ROBERT. Fourteen in all, and they are good working animals, the best that ever walked.

GUARD. All smart and industrious, hey? Willing to do any kind of work without telling them. That's the kind I want, so I've struck another heap of luck, by ginger!



ROBERT. Gentle as a lamb, every one I have.

GUARD. Squire, I'm in for a bargain, so don't be anyways hard on a fellow. What do you value your horses by the head?

ROBERT. Two hundred dollars, and cheap at that.

GUARD. You are in debt to me five hundred, for saving your life, so when the time comes to pay for your insurance, I will be obliged if you can let me have three horses instead of the money.

ROBERT. I hardly think we can hitch on that bargain. You know the value of my horses, and, by your reckoning, you make one hundred the best of me. Two horses and a half will pay you for the trouble you have had.

GUARD. A half will be no use to me.

ROBERT. Nor me.

GUARD. Then what can we do?

ROBERT. If we all reach the cabin safely, I shan't be hard with you. I'll do all in my power to content the most unreasonable.

GUARD. Then I'll stick to you for a horse. I hear you have the best farm in the country, Squire.

ROBERT. Yes, rather a nice farm, but too handy for bad enemies.

GUARD. Bother the enemies. They ain't a going to trouble us after we get across them mountains. Squire! have you ever heard how that coon, George Melvin, our great enemy, lost his father and mother, and all his sisters and brothers?

ROBERT. No, sir! I have not.

GUARD. Are you fond of hearing stories?

ROBERT. Yes, occasionally.

GUARD. Then I'll tell you one that's true. Bob has never told a lie, so I'll follow his example. Some four years ago, all, with the exception of George, started to visit a near relative. An uncle to be sure—

ROBERT. Uncles generally have the most money, and are used the worst.

GUARD. Decidedly, you are right. Well, however, they were on board a locomotive, running along victoriously, when, all of a sudden, an explosion took place, sending all on board flying in the air, and landing them safe in the water.

ROBERT. Horrible! How did it happen?

GUARD. Easy enough, Squire; the engine exploded.

ROBERT. Mercy! How could it explode.

GUARD. Don't you see? The boiler gave way, and all were lost except one poor old man who died a short time afterwards.

ROBERT. From fright, I suppose?

GUARD. No; from a tickling sensation in the throat which the steam had caused.

ROBERT. And who was this old man?

GUARD. The father of that villainous youth who tracks our path, and stole away your daughter Nell. *[Looks off right.]* Ah! she comes with Bob; they walk very slow. I guess something is wrong.

ROBERT. Oh, no! probably she's tired of walking.

*Enter NELL and BOB R. 1 E. walking slowly.*

GUARD. What's come over the gal? she looks as white as a ghost.

BOB. Narrow escape from death.

ROBERT. More troubles, indeed. *[Goes to NELL and takes her hand.]* What has happened? tell me all.

NELL. I can hardly remember, but his life is ended.

BOB. Yes, I have killed him; your nephew is dead. You had not been gone but a short time when he climbed the rocks and threw her into the water. Seeing him, I hurried along in my boat and shot him as he stood gazing at her. He fell, never more to speak. I then rescued your daughter, who is the pride of my heart.

ROBERT. *[Placing hand on Bob's shoulder.]* You, Mr. Haley, after my death, will be left in charge of the old cabin, also the property which I hope will be kept in good order. No one has ever been so kind towards us as you. True to each other you live, and my only wish is that true to each other you'll die.

GUARD. Your wishes will be sustainable, Squire.

BOB. One more chance at that Melvin, and I'll send him along with Sam. Who could it have been who put the thought into his head of trying to make Nell marry him?

GUARD. The devil. He's always on the watch for an opportunity.

ROBERT. Bless my soul, if he ain't swearing!

GUARD. That's not swearing, I said *shoel*.

ROBERT. I beg pardon, sir; you said *devil*. There! I swore myself.

GUARD. Easy, Squire! you said the devil once, and I said it again, that's twice. One is dead, and I hope the other will soon go along. *[To BOB.]* Where did you leave the first one, Bob?

BOB. Quite a distance from here. He never said a word after he fell.

GUARD. Serves him right; only let me get a shot at the second one, and he'll never wink.

NELL. It's very hard to bear with all this misery. I cannot stand it much longer. We have watched and waited for bright prospects, thinking our journey would be safe, but all is various. One hour brings forth buds of promise, and the next they wither and die.

BOB. Have faith, my dear girl. There's only one to battle with now. So come, cheer up! what's the use of giving up all hopes?

NELL. Courage has not failed me yet. *[Takes pistol from bosom.]* Soon as I see his ugly form, before he says one word, I'll shoot him dead.

GUARD. She ain't a going to fool any more, I swan. *[To NELL.]* Don't you get excited when you meet him, if you do there'll be war externally. So be very careful. If you get killed accidentally, your loss will be deeply felt by Bob, the Squire and myself. I'll never forget to love you as long as I have breath.

BOB. Ha! ha! ha! the idea of her getting killed. Very likely you'll be the first.

GUARD. It's terrible to think of, but I shan't be in a hurry.

ROBERT. One has gone from our sight who was indeed wretched; yes, beyond the wretchedness of mere humanity. No more will he follow our path, or terrify us with his vengeance.

GUARD. The unfortunate victim, how could he be such a villain? *[Braeing up.]* This child will never fail to watch a sympathizing tear that's shed for no one but himself. *[Wipes eyes.]*

BOB. *[Takes NELL by the hand.]* Come, Nell! we must reach the cabin. Unoccupied it is now, but before long, happy we shall be, living in it as Mr. and Mrs. Bob Haley.

GUARD. *[Looks off right.]* Take to your heels and fly, or you'll never come out the battle alive. *[All look amazed.]*

NELL. *[Aside.]* What can he mean? *[Goes to GUARD.]* Does your head trouble you, sir?

GUARD. Oh, no! it's quite easy, but you had better git with Bob, for we're going to have a row.

BOB. I believe that fellow thinks a great deal of her.

GUARD. Now you'll have a chance to kill some one, for that villain's coming like a streak of bad luck towards us. *[Takes opera glass from pocket and looks through.]* Oh, Lord! there's no show for us; two hard-looking creatures follow him.

BOB. Don't get confused, each one do what you can, and I'll assure you we'll conquer. *[Looks off right.]* Yes, they come; it's now life or death.

*Enter GEORGE with two rough-looking men, carrying swords, R. 1 E. Soon as they enter NELL fires, one man with sword drops dead. BOB seizes sword and fences with the other. (MUSIC.) George makes a rush for NELL and she screams. GUARD points pistol at him. GEORGE trips GUARD up, taking pistol from him. Shoots ROBERT, who falls dead. GEORGE escapes with NELL L. 1 E. GUARD rises and limps about.*

GUARD. Oh, Lord! it's awful, the gal's gone and I'm wounded. *[Looks at ROBERT.]* Dead as a hammer, the poor, unfortunate man.

[Looks at BOB.] Go it, Bob! don't give him any show. [BOB beats his adversary to his knees, then runs sword through him, and he falls dead.]

GUARD. That settles it.

BOB. [Goes and looks at ROBERT.] What! dead?

GUARD. Yes, he don't breathe an inch, and the gal's gone.

BOB. The villain has her at last.

GUARD. Hadn't we better track him? he can't get further than the mountains.

BOB. Yes, before he ends her life. [Starts to go.] Come!

GUARD. Not so fast, Bob. You know if anyone should come along here to-night, they'll get scared at these folks lying here. Give us a lift, and we'll conceal them behind the stone wall.

*They drag the bodies off and enter quickly.*

GUARD. Now for the chase! a black eye and a bloody nose. [Exit L. 1 E.]

BOB. Heaven bless her dear, sweet face, and spare her life for the sake of one who loves her. [Exit L. 1 E.]

SCENE III. Woods, mountains on R. and L. V. entrances. Bridge extending across from one mountain to the other, ready to drop when stepped upon. Also a stationary rail on one side. Rocks and scrubberly at foot of mountains. Path leading up on L.—Music at opening of scene.

NELL and GEORGE discovered standing on the mountains R.

GEORGE. Should they come up here, my gal, don't you say a word; it you do, I'll not hesitate to strike you. [Aside.] All is prepared. [Points at bridge.] That will not bear the weight of one. [To NELL.] I have you once more, and before the sun sets, you shall be mine. You need a friend to console you, a counsellor to aid—

NELL. You will never be my counsellor; the man I love is dearer to me than a father. Oh! why do you impose upon me to marry, when I say I will not?

GEORGE. Then it is not necessary to dwell upon this any longer, as you are opposed, but I tell you, this heart burns with enchantment.

NELL. Let it burn. I shall never destroy my hopes of a great future as to become your wife. The place for you, is along with Samuel.

GEORGE. Could I find him, I would most certainly be with him. Have you any idea where he is?

NELL. Yes.

GEORGE. Then tell me; is he far distant?

NELL. His body is not far off.

GEORGE. [Quickly.] What! is he dead?

NELL. Yes, dead, and shot by the hand of one who I hope will shortly be on your track. Samuel will never more try to dispossess me from that I own.

GEORGE. The poor fellow! I did not think he would die by the hand of that mean rascal.

NELL. Who do you call a mean rascal?

GEORGE. Why, Bob Haley.

NELL. [Enraged.] A mean rascal! He's a noble and brave man, while you are a mean, contemptible villain.

GEORGE. If he's dead, I hope the secret has died with him. Did your father know what caused your mother's death?

NELL. Yes, I have told him all, and Samuel's threatenings have come to an end.

GEORGE. I never thought you would be so deceitful in keeping the secret as long as you have, and then revealing it to your father.

NELL. I would not have kept it so long only for the fear I had of Samuel's continued threats against me and my father's life.

GEORGE. How is it, then, that you acted towards him as if nothing had happened?

NELL. It was through fear I did it, though oft when I smiled upon him, it was nothing but deceit. I regret the day I pleaded that he might not be imprisoned again, and ah, how I regret that I did not tell my father from the first. Why did I try to shield Samuel, who has been my curse?

GEORGE. Had you complied with his wishes, and married me, all things would have went along smoothly. No, you must have him who I despise. But it is not yet too late to break your engagement. Say you will be mine, and you shall live in splendor all your life. If not, this night the shadow of death shall hover over you.

NELL. Sooner would I die, than betray his confidence in me.

GEORGE. Then you'll die. You're mighty afraid of betraying his confidence.

*Enter GUARD and BOB L. 2 E. GUARD looking up at mountains.*

GUARD. Oh, Lord! they're waiting for us. Come, Bob, let's finish this fellow. [GUARD rushes up mountain on left, BOB after him.

NELL seeing him, starts to cross bridge, GEORGE grasps her by the arm.

GEORGE. You cannot cross.

GUARD quickly steps on bridge; it goes down with him as BOB is about to put his foot upon it. BOB steps back in astonishment, draws pistol and fires at GEORGE. GEORGE staggers and draws dagger.

GEORGE. Not mine, neither shall you be his. [Raises dagger and strikes NELL, drops dagger and falls dead. NELL places her hand on her breast and reels. BOB in excitement places hand on rail, leaps across and catches her as she is about to fall. He kneels on one knee with NELL in his arms. Calcium light thrown on them. Slow music.]

NELL. Bob! Bob!

BOB. Yes, I am here.

NELL. I must soon leave you. [Places hand on her breast.] Oh this pain. Never more to gaze upon you again.

BOB. No, you shall not leave me. [Wipes eyes.] I cannot give you up.

NELL. Where is father? Cannot I see him to ask his forgiveness for what I have done?

BOB. What have you done that he should forgive?

NELL. Oh! I have kept the secret of my mother's death so long from him. Yet, I kept it to save his and my life. But all has been in vain. I know he thinks me deceitful. Where is he? Where is he?

BOB. [Aside.] I dare not tell her of his death. Yet, I must. [To NELL.] He does not think you deceitful. No father could love a daughter better than he loved you.

NELL. Then, where is he? Where is he? I must see him.

BOB. [Wiping his eyes.] He has gone before you, to a world where I hope all his troubles are ended.

NELL. What! is he dead?

BOB. Yes, Nell, he is.

NELL. [Raising her hands.] Oh! father forgive me. [Throws arms around BOB's neck.] Oh! how I love you, and how I have tried to prove true. [BOB kisses her and she sinks back.] Good bye, good bye! [Dies.]

*BOB looks at her, lays her down, and rises to his feet.*

BOB. Dead! yes, dead! And by her side lies her murderer. Yet, thank Heaven, he died by my own hand. Could I but call her back! But no, she sleeps the long sleep of death, which knows no waking. Never has a girl proven truer than Nell has to me. I'll never live to fall in love with another. No! [Picks up the dagger used by GEORGE and holds it up before him.] This dagger caused her death, and the same shall let out my life's blood. [Stabs himself and drops on his knees, throws his eyes up.] Father! forgive me for this rash act. I cannot live here without her. True to each other in life, and true in death! [Sinks back and dies.]







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